



THE AUSTRALIAN
*garden
journal*

OFFICIAL JOURNAL OF THE AUSTRALIAN GARDEN HISTORY SOCIETY

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Sold by subscription \$15.00 per year



Vol. 4 No. 4

APRIL 1985

Registered by Australia Post : publication no. NBQ4824

The Australian Garden Journal is published six times a year, in February, April, June, August, October and December.

It is the official journal of the Australian Garden History Society and as such is distributed free to all members of that Society.

To non-members of the Society the subscription is \$15.00 per year, which includes postage. Overseas subscription rates are available on request.

Single copies are available for \$2.50 each, including postage. Back issues are also available as under:

1981 (3 issues) - 50c 1982 (12 issues) - 50c

1983 (7 issues) - \$1.00 1984 on (6 per year) - \$1.50

Contributions are invited from all those who have an interest in gardens and gardening, as art or as science. Opinions expressed by contributors are not necessarily those of the Australian Garden History Society or the publishers.

The Australian Garden Journal is published by Tim and Keva North, P.O. Box 588, Bowral, N.S.W. 2576.

Telephone (048) 61-1884.

Typesetting by David Graphic-Sales, 9-19 Nickson Street, Surry Hills, N.S.W. 2010.

Printing by Shepson Printing (Letterpress and Offset) Pty. Ltd., P.O. Box 543, Darlinghurst, N.S.W. 2010.

Colour separations by Photomat Scanographics, P.O. Box 494, Darlinghurst, 2010.

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Registered with Australia Post for posting as a publication category B: no. NBQ 4824.

ISSN No. 0812.9495.

Front Cover:

Hibiscus insularis (see page 88)

photo: David Bedford,

Royal Botanic Gardens, Sydney

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Contributors to this Issue

Ross Boaden

is a chemical engineer by training, but a frustrated naturalist by inclination. He relieved his frustration by becoming a Collins Street farmer, growing flowers, bulbs and steers at the weekends on a small property on the outskirts of Melbourne. Taking an early retirement he moved to Mount Eliza, and with more time available extended his range to include miniature standard roses. At that point a friend returned from England with a glowing account of the David Austin roses, and insisted he imported them and started a nursery. This is now "The Perfumed Garden", thus stressing the fragrance of these roses.

Michael Taffe

started by researching the history of his house and garden, which has been his family's home since late in the last century. This project led him to researching other similar style working class cottages in Ballarat, and he is anxiously seeking photographic records of these, and their gardens.

Mary Davis

is a landscape designer and consultant. Her "Cottage Garden Notes" are a regular feature of this Journal.

Disposable, or Perpetual?

We are accustomed by now, or at least we should be, to living in a "throw-away" society; nearly all the commonplace items of everyday life are "disposable" — buy it, use it, throw it away and then buy another one. It's a useful ethos for the manufacturer and for the retailer, but often a frustrating one for the consumer who clings to the idea that there are things that **should** be made to last; and, of course, it adds to our escalating problems of getting rid of rubbish.

But when it is suggested that some plants — and I mean perennial plants, not annuals — should be regarded as "throw-aways" — throw them away when they've finished flowering because it's easier to buy another — I object. I don't believe that a healthy, normal plant which Nature intended should repeat its intricate cycle many times should be committed to premature burial in the garbage bin because someone is too lazy, too ignorant, or too stupid to tend it through to the beginning of a fresh cycle.

On the other hand, I don't believe that too much time or sympathy should be wasted on weak or sickly plants, unless they have some special interest, horticultural, historical, or even sentimental. And there are plants, too, that need to be disciplined, sometimes harshly, if they misbehave or become too aggressive.

In this I agree with Dennis Thompson, of Seattle, who, writing in "Pacific Horticulture", says that he wants "to live in a land-

scape not the intensive care ward of a plant hospital. Neither do I want my garden to be a prison where I must do bed checks nightly to be certain that someone isn't assaulting someone else. I assume that plants are like children, there are going to be some squabbles, most of which they will sort out for themselves. If they can't work it out, eventually they will have to be separated".

This is sound advice, from one who says that, when cornered, he describes himself as an "ecosystematic" gardener, which sounds like a high-falutin name for a "natural" or even a "commonsense" gardener. The pioneer of this type of gardening was Professor Geoffrey Blackman, who was Sibthorpiian Professor of Rural Economy at Oxford University from 1945 to 1970. His garden at Wood Croft, outside Oxford, was "the culmination of a life's study of the inter-relationships of plants with their environment". His week-end gardener, a Mr McDermott, summed it up in these words "The Professor set it going and it created itself. He put the plants in their rightful places, where they wanted to be, and it's now so relaxed that I am quickly led to any plant that is unhappy. The Professor set the clock, and everything seemed just to go on. What he's done is going to last for ever".

So there we have the two extremes, the "throw-away" plant and the garden that goes on for ever. The latter is only rarely achieved; it is perhaps an ideal for which we might all strive. But at least let us preserve good plants from the growing ranks of the "disposables".

TIM NORTH

Contributors to this issue (continued)

Nan Barbour

trained and worked initially as a radiographer, but subsequently trained at the Ryde School of Horticulture, where she is now a part-time teacher. Her involvement with the disabled began when her youngest child became a paraplegic at the age of four. She is at present engaged in writing a syllabus for a course in horticulture for the disabled and elderly, due to commence at Ryde later this year. She is a member of the N.S.W. Council of the Australian Institute of Horticulture.

Barney Hutton

is a keen plantsman and garden historian, who has carried out a considerable amount of research into Victoria's early nurserymen. He and his wife live on Mount Macedon.

Trevor Nottle

needs little introduction to readers of this Journal, since he has been a regular contributor since its very early days. His two latest books, "The Cottage Garden Revived" and "Growing Perennials", were published by Kangaroo Press late last year.

Back issues

Back issues of *The Australian Garden Journal* and of "Garden Cuttings" (its predecessor to June 1983) are available (see notice inside front cover). However Vol 1 No 11 (Aug 1982) is out-of-print; if any reader has a copy to spare will he/she please get in touch with Mr G.P. Nicholls, "Cranbrook", Australia Street, Camperdown, NSW 2050, tel. (02) 51.2654, who is in need of this issue to complete his set.

In Forthcoming Issues

Articles to be published in *The Australian Garden Journal* later this year include:

The Royal Botanic Gardens, Edinburgh, by Pauline Tully

A Fairer Athens and a Freer Rome (a look at some historic parks and gardens in Perth), by Oline Richards.

Erodiums, by Robin Parer.

The Mount Coot-tha Botanic Gardens, Brisbane, by Ross McKinnon.

Centennial Park, Sydney, by M.J. Mortimer.

Exotic Fruits in Australia, by John and Jacky Marshall.

South African Bulbous Plants, by Dr Brian Morley.

Australian Plant amongst the World's Most Endangered

The Philip Island Hibiscus, *Hibiscus insularis*, a native of a small island close to Norfolk Island, has been identified by the International Union for the Conservation of Nature and Natural Resources (IUCN) as being one of 12 plants teetering on the brink of extinction. Only four bushes of the hibiscus were left in the world in 1964 as the result of grazing by introduced animals on Philip Island. Most of these animals have now died out.

At present there are only eight hibiscus bushes growing in a small valley on the island and these are under threat from rabbits which were introduced during the 1800s.

Throughout 1984 World Wildlife Fund Australia joined with other members of the World Wildlife Fund family to conduct an International Plants Campaign to increase public awareness of the need for plant conservation and raise funds for its programme of scientific research projects.

Project 65; Conservation Biology of the Endangered Plant Species *Hibiscus insularis*, has been given a high priority in World Wildlife Fund Australia's 1985 Conservation Programme. The fund needs to raise \$4,600 so that work to conserve this rare plant can begin. "We would welcome any donation the public can give towards this worthy project", commented World Wildlife Fund Australia President, Mr Donald Malcolmson; "Without this work the future of the hibiscus is bleak".

The hibiscus is the only surviving native plant on Philip Island. The island itself is now almost denuded of vegetation and serves as a stark reminder of the care needed when introducing new animals to environments of particular islands.

The other plants listed by IUCN as being endangered were:

African Violet, *Saintpaulia ionantha*, the world's most popular houseplant, now almost extinct in its wild home in the tropical forests of the mountains of Tanzania. Only three plants were found by a recent expedition.

Bamboo cycad, *Ceratozamia hildae*; commercial collectors have removed one of the two known wild populations of this recently described Mexican cycad.

Drury's slipper orchid, *Paphiopedilum druryi*, an Indian slipper orchid, well known in horticulture, but not seen in the wild since 1972.

Flor de Mayo Lenoso *Senecio hadrosomus*, an attractive florists' plant whose wild population, numbering 60 to 100, is threatened by over-grazing in its only home in the mountains of Central Grand Canary island.

Giant Rafflesia, *Rafflesia arnoldii*, the largest flower in the world, is in danger from destruction and disturbance of its rain-forest habitat in Sumatra.

Kau Silversword, *Argyroxiphium kauense*, an endemic silversword of Hawaii threatened by grazing sheep. One of 822 endangered plants in Hawaii, the highest number for any country in the world.

Neogomesia cactus, *Ariocarpus agavoides*, a Mexican endemic cactus threatened by excessive collecting in its only habitat.

Palenque mahogany, *Persea theobromifolia*; a few specimens of this valuable timber tree, related to avocado, survive in Ecuador's lowland Andean forest.

Socotran pomegranate, *Punica protopunica*; only four ancient trees remain on Socotra island because of over-grazing. Prob-

bly an important genetic resource to produce disease resistance in cultivated pomegranate.

Tarout cypress, *Cupressus dupreziana*; more dead than alive trees exist in Algeria, its last refuge, because of over-grazing and firewood collecting. A valuable tree for arid areas as it is extremely drought-resistant. Old trees may be 2,000 years old and could provide information on past climates and provide a standard for dating woods.

Yeheb nut bush, *Cordeauxia edulis*; the nutritious nuts of this endangered bush of Ethiopia and Somalia could be a valuable food crop for arid lands, but it has been reduced to dangerously low levels, along with most of the vegetation of the Horn of Africa, because of heavy harvesting of nuts and browsing by goats.



Disabled and Elderly in the Garden

"Of People and Plants" is a 22 minute professionally made video film, commissioned and sold by the "People and Plants Association of Australia Inc" (formerly "Disabled Gardeners Association of Australia Inc").

This video programme shows various people with disabilities, as well as elderly persons, at home and in residential centres who, in one way or another, successfully engage in gardening.

"Of People and Plants" puts forth positive examples of "how to do it with a disability", showing visually impaired, bedbound, quadriplegic, paraplegic and other gardeners with difficulties. A former W.A. Premier, the Hon. John Tonkin, is featured as one enthusiastic elderly gardener.

The obvious benefits received from gardening, such as feelings of ability, creativity and self-respect, radiate from these people, while also showing some practical angle on gardening with a particular handicap, for young and old.

"Of People and Plants" was made for the purpose of promoting gardening as an enjoyable and therapeutic activity to residents and staff in residential centres as well as for the elderly and disabled persons, living at home.

In addition this video film has the proven potential of being an excellent fund-raising tool, in order to give groups the ability to develop their own garden programmes. Organizations can present their sponsors with a "living" and positive image of what their own garden proposals can achieve.

Following the enthusiastic reception of "Of People and Plants" in Perth at its official launch in October 1984, the People and Plants Association of Australia Inc. is now working to produce a further series of short video programmes, focussing in a practical and educational way on the various uses of gardening in a particular situation, such as "How to Garden from your Bed", "How to Garden with a Bad Back", and "How to Garden from a Wheelchair".

Cost of this video show (half-inch or three-quarter inch VHS, BETA) is \$65 for organizations and individuals, \$55 for pensioners. Further information is available from: People and Plants Association of Australia Inc., PO Box 558, Subiaco, WA 6008.

Horticulture and Rehabilitation

by Nan Barbour

In the few years following the International Year of the Disabled only slow progress was made in using the benefits of horticulture to help the elderly and the handicapped. In New South Wales, in line with other States, a group of interested people have been active in recent months in setting up a body to further these aims.

With the encouragement of the Australian Institute of Horticulture an inaugural meeting was called last October at the Ryde School of Horticulture, Sydney. We were encouraged when over seventy people attended, and a provisional committee was charged with the task of preparing a constitution.

Deciding on a suitable name has been a great problem. Originally it was contemplated that the name would be "The Society of Horticultural Therapy" in keeping with a similar body in the United Kingdom. Because of misgiving in some quarters about the word "Therapy", the name has been changed to "The Society for Horticulture in Recreation and Rehabilitation" — S.H.R. for short!

At a well attended meeting in February the Society was officially formed and a constitution adopted. The objectives of the new Society are:-

1. To promote horticulture as a therapeutic process, and a means of rehabilitation.
2. To provide a range of practical services to disabled people and those who serve them.
3. To encourage and assist with information exchange and advice.
4. To encourage the establishment of a tool library and loan system.
5. To organize workshops, seminars and demonstrations.



6. To encourage the establishment of a landscape design service for creating new, and modifying existing gardens, for disabled people.

7. To produce a regular publication.
8. To co-operate with other organizations with similar objects.
9. To liaise with Government Departments and other relevant organizations.

I am receiving a steady stream of enquiries from disabled and elderly people, both in their own homes and in institutions, and also from Occupational Therapists and other professional people.

Our great dream is that one day we will see the establishment of a central facility in Sydney, which will be able to provide the sort of services that are now being provided for residents of the A.C.T. by the Banksia Centre at the National Botanic Gardens in Canberra.

Our first one-day workshop is to be held at the Ryde School on 23rd March. This is to be a practical day with the emphasis on "Horticulture is Fun".

We should also remember — gardening is for everyone.

Editor's note: the contact address for the new Society mentioned in this article is:

Miss Betty Hudson, Hon. Sec., 15/257 Princes Highway, Lindfield, NSW 2027.

As this is, in Australia at least, a comparatively new and important field of horticulture, we hope to publish further articles in later issues.



The Ballarat City Garden Competition

by Michael Taffe

The Ballarat "Courier" of December 11th 1918, reported on the Cottage Gardens Competition, noting that the judges were "hopeful of last effect in still further beautifying a city which is known far and wide as the Garden City." With much comment and questioning whether any city in the Commonwealth could show such results, the first Ballarat garden competition of the 20th century closed. Despite the high praise, it was to be another thirty-four years before the now well established Courier Garden Competition commenced in conjunction with the Begonia Festival.

In inaugurating the competition the Mayor of the day, Cr. Brown, stated that he wished to "encourage the growth of vegetables by our citizens for the use of their families". Does this tell us something of the effect of war or the recession in mining?

When announcing the competition the Mayor appointed three judges, Messrs Ross, Kenny and Toop. Mr John Ross was well qualified to judge as he was senior gardener at the Ballarat Base Hospital, and had been a committee member of the Ballarat Horticultural Society for fifty years. It was in commemoration of this last service that he was presented with an illuminated address, and a purse of gold sovereigns by the Horticultural Society in 1915. The second judge, Mr Arthur Kenny, had been secretary of the Horticultural Society and was Superintendent of the Ballarat Orphanage. Prior to this he had been the senior gardener there. He commenced his horticultural career as a nurseryman with Thomas Lang, Ballarat's pioneer nurseryman. The remaining judge is reputed to have pioneered Ballarat's begonia displays. He was Mr Thomas Toop and succeeded Mr W. Longley as Curator of the Ballarat Botanical Gardens. He was also a long-standing member of the Horticultural Society.

The rules of the competition required competitors to be ratepayers whose property value did not exceed 26 pounds. The judges, however, recommended that the competition be open to tenants as well as owners, and this was accepted. In making this recommendation, Mr Toop also suggested that the season for the competition be from 1st November of each year to the 30th April, "knowing the difficulty of working the ground during the months of winter". Mr Ross made a similar recommendation; the Mayor, however, maintained the competition as a year long event.

The unusual feature of the competition to modern eyes has to be its duration. No ten day wonder here; the competition would commence on the 1st November 1915 and extend over three years, with annual awards and a championship award for the garden accruing the highest aggregate over the period of the competitions. No hired labour was allowed and the judges were to inspect the gardens "when and as often as they please". This ruling surely denies any of to-day's efforts and procedures. How would to-day's gardeners fare? Three years of being ever ready!

After all due publicity there were thirty-two gardens entered in 1915. Throughout the competition the number of gardens never fell below thirty. If there are many more than half this number entered in a similar category to-day organisers are happy. Such are the changes in attitudes, interests and pastimes.

Points were to be awarded as follows: 1. Layout; 2. Management; 3. Flowers; 4. Fruit; 5. Vegetables.

As there seems to be no real record of this early competition I will record in some detail the judges comments throughout. One

must remember that this competition was sponsored by the Mayor and was probably the first (and last?) Mayoral competition of the kind held in Ballarat. We know that the Horticultural Society had sponsored cottage garden competitions here in the 1860s and 1870s, but not the City as such.

For the first year the judges visited and inspected the gardens in November 1915, February 1916, May 1916 and October 1916. By way of comments the judges said "It is gratifying to note that the efforts put forth were very creditable to all concerned. The winners were: owners — 1. Mr Taffe, Cardigan Street; 2. Mr Sheldon, Yarrowee Parade: tenants — 1. Mr Rose, Church Street; 2. Mr Greenwood, Hotham Street.

Following this announcement the judges recommended that the winners stand out from the annual awards and be eligible only for the championship prize at the end of the competition. Once again respect for the judges was shown and this suggestion accepted.

As a point of comparison and in an effort to understand the work involved by these amateur gardeners we need to read the annual reports from the Botanical Gardens; "Right up to the end of 1916 excessively wet conditions prevailed making the ground unworkable". It is noteworthy that the first four months had only five inches of rain. Without the benefit of being full-time gardeners or having the water resources of the Botanical Gardens many high points were attained.

Such adverse weather obviously affected some gardeners as the judges' report of 1917 expressed regret at the withdrawal of some competitors. Mrs Quick was at that stage the only tenant remaining in the competition, and won that section. Winning owners were; 1. Mr Sheldon, Yarrowee Parade; 2. Mr Kierce, Eyre Street.

Two years of the competition had now passed and how the wives and mothers must have looked forward to an end and with it a rest from constant anxiety. My grandmother at the time was busy with seven children, four boys. My aunt who was a young child at the time recalls her mother's anxiety to look out the kitchen window and see four or five strange men in the back garden. She recounts how they would inspect everything even to pulling up the occasional carrot and breaking it open to inspect. Toilets and fowl runs were maintained immaculately also, in those days of the night cart. The children had their tasks, one being to keep the much revered Victorian gravel paths raked. Not a stone was allowed to be out of place in our house; this must have been torture for little boys. How they must have feared the Victorian father!

In their final report of 1918 the judges commented in true Victorian style, "Our labour now being ended it devolves upon us to say that in our opinion such good has been accomplished through the medium of competition, to our knowledge neglected backyards and ground that contained rank growth of docks and other noxious weeds have been converted into useful gardens and much useful produce won by industrious tenants". This being said they proceeded to announce the winners for 1918:

Equal 1st; Mr Webb, Nightingale Street, and Mr McGahey, Talbot Street.

Equal 2nd; Mr Kierce, Eyre Street, and Mr Muir, Talbot Street.

The Ballarat City Garden Competition (continued)

The aggregate number of points was won by Mr Taffe of Cardigan Street, followed by Mr Sheldon of Yarrowee Parade, second, and Mr Webb of Nightingale Street, third. Mrs Quick of Sturt Street won the tenants section.

So ended the Ballarat Cottage Garden Competition. What is its significance to us 70 years later?

In visiting those garden sites to-day I find less than half the homes remaining and only one garden. Of all these properties there is nothing to remind one that they could ever seriously be entered in a garden competition; there are more cars than flowers in some. Many of the homes and gardens have given way to modern units. New people, modern demands, king car, supermarkets, refrigeration and the "instant" society have completely changed our concepts. How many people to-day look to "useful produce"? In comparing to-day's competition gardens to those of seventy years ago the one common feature is the diversity in the size of the allotments. To-day we have sections for small and large gardens but in 1915 entries ranged from small city blocks with no front garden to speak of, to quarter-acre blocks.

As mentioned earlier our attitudes, interests and pastimes have changed radically in the past seventy years. The style of gardening, interest in gardens and competition in gardens and their produce reflect these changes. What do you do on Sunday afternoon? Watch a football replay, play sport or go for a drive. In 1915 Sunday was a day of rest as we can never comprehend it to-day. There were no televisions, radios, cars or fun parlours with electronic games. Hotels were definitely not open for business. Life was still Victorian in that one took the air or withdrew into one's own home to enjoy the simple pleasures of family life. All this, of course, having regard to their very earnest participation in church and Sunday School activities. Many were the church bazaars and flower shows, but it was perhaps the most universal activity in Ballarat that we are here involved in — walking. Most people took long walks, socialising or looking at the gardens both public and private.

If the competition was, as I believe, an attempt to further enhance Ballarat's reputation as the "Garden City" it was to some degree successful. It involved a broader social group in a civic competition than ever before and helped create a civic identity in the working classes. Ballarat had five categories of gardens for people to compare:

1. Working class cottage gardens
2. Gentlemen's pleasure gardens
3. Institutional gardens, e.g. Benevolent Asylum, Base Hospital etc.
4. Public gardens
5. Botanical gardens

There has over recent years been an upsurge of interest in Australian garden history. Peter Watts in "Historic Gardens of Victoria" tells us that cottage gardens are ephemeral. This is a proven fact in a far more sinister way than he was referring to. It says much that a man, or perhaps the woman behind the man, could work away all day and yet maintain a quarter of an acre of complex gravel paths and garden beds lined with miniature box hedges. The entire property, in the case of the winning garden, was almost surrounded by higher hedges. All this without the aid of our shorter working hours and more generous annual

leave provisions.

We must record our contemporary gardens. They reflect our lifestyle and interest in native flora. In 1915 the competitors were working men, improving their very English gardens at the end of a hard day. Most of to-day's garden competitors would, I believe, be retired. Their major time and effort would be their gardens and they would not generally be disturbed by young families. To-day's garden would certainly reflect landscaping trends, and the supermarket has eliminated the need for more than a token vegetable garden. This is not to say that there are no enthusiastic vegetable gardeners, but will the vegetable garden go the way of the poultry run in urban gardens?

Hopefully, someone may look further and record our 19th century garden competitions as well as our more recent ones. Had it not been for a personal, family interest, the Ballarat City Cottage Garden Competition of 1915 to 1918 and its lessons would have been lost.

More lasting objects of the era surround us in Ballarat in the forms of the Titanic Bandstand and the Arch of Victory, but gardens are of people.



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AUSTRALIAN GARDEN HISTORY SOCIETY

Patron: Dame Elisabeth Murdoch, D.B.E.

Chairman: Mrs J.E. Mitchell

Secretary: Mr Tim North, PO Box 588, Bowral, NSW 2576

Treasurer: Mr Ken Digby, Shorebrace, Stokes Point, NSW 2107

All correspondence should be addressed to the Secretary.

The Society's Aims

The Society was formed in 1980 with a view to bringing together all those with an interest in the various aspects of garden history — horticulture, landscape design, architecture, and related subjects.

Its primary concern is to promote interest in and research into historic gardens, as a major component of the National Estate. It is also concerned, through a study of garden history, with the promotion of proper standards of design and maintenance that will be relevant to the needs of to-day, and with the conservation of valuable plants that are in danger of being lost to cultivation. It aims to look at garden making in its wide historic, literary, artistic and scientific context.

Benefits of Membership

The benefits of membership include:-

1. The Society's official journal (The Australian Garden Journal) six times a year.
2. Garden visits, workshops, talks and discussions, and various social functions, organized on a State level.
3. An opportunity to attend the Annual Conference, which is held in a different centre each year, and which includes visits to important historic gardens in that area.

Join now for up to fifteen months membership

Those who join between 1st April and 30th June have benefits of membership until 30th June 1986, for no more than the normal twelve months' subscription. The present subscription rates are:

Ordinary: \$18.00

Family: \$25.00

Corporate: \$30.00

Ordinary membership covers **one** individual only; family membership covers husband, wife and children under the age of eighteen living with their parents; corporate membership applies to business firms, institutions, associations, etc, and allows up to three individuals to attend any "members only" activity, including the Annual Conference.

South Australia

The following activities are planned:

Sunday 21st April: guided tour of the Parklands by bus, commencing 10 am, followed by lunch. The Historical Society of S.A. have a guided tour of West Terrace Cemetery on the same day commencing at 2 pm (\$2.00 per person), and members of both Societies are invited to participate in the other's activity.

Wednesday 26th June: Branch AGM; a speaker has yet to be chosen.

Sunday 29th September: visit to gardens in the Clare district, including Hughes Park; take your own picnic lunch.

In appreciation of the use of the Botanic Gardens lecture room the South Australian Branch has presented Professor W.T. Stearn's "Paeonies of Greece" to the Botanic Gardens Library.

Victoria

Two most successful events were held in February — one large, one small in numbers but significant in impact. More than eighty members and friends visited the garden at "Heronwood", Dromana, on a sunny Sunday afternoon. The perennial borders looked splendid as did the superb views to Port Phillip Bay. Clive and Penny Blazey — proprietors of Diggers Seeds — took tours around the garden and we thank them for their hospitality.

Nine members joined in a pruning day at "Buda", Castlemaine, later in the month. The pruning was done in advance of identification of the roses. It has been suggested that the Victorian Branch should now take on the care of the roses at "Buda", work which would include not only pruning at the appropriate times, but planting a new rose garden on the site of the old tennis court with roses donated by local nursery people, Clive Winmill and Susan St Leon. Members interested in being involved should get in touch with the President, Mimi Ramsay, on (03) 266.1751. Coming events:

Sunday 5th May: Plant Propagation for Particular Plant Lovers; Dr James Hitchmough and Dr Peter May of VCAH Burnley will demonstrate propagating techniques at the College's nursery in Swan Street, Richmond, between 2 and 4.30 pm. Members \$3.00, friends \$4.00.

Thursday 6th June: John Hawker of the National Herbarium will speak at "Illawarra", Illawarra Crescent, Toorak, on his work both with the Register of Significant Trees in Victoria and with the rejuvenation of noted country botanic gardens. The lecture begins at 8 pm. Coffee and biscuits will be served afterwards. Members \$4.00, friends \$5.00.

New South Wales

About seventy members and their friends enjoyed a perfect evening on Sydney Harbour on Friday 15th February, when the ferry "Regal" took them on a four-hour cruise, and well-known naturalist and conservationist Vincent Serventy gave a commentary on the harbour's history and wildlife and the modern developments, both good and bad, along its foreshores. By a coincidence, the harbour was occupied that evening by the two super-liners, Queen Elizabeth II and Sagafjord, and by the P & O liner Canberra.

On Saturday 9th March a group of members and friends gathered at The Maltings at Mittagong, to hear about the proposed development of the old malthouses and the 6.5 hectare site as an artistic and cultural centre. A chicken and champagne supper was served on the banks of the River Nattai, which runs through the property.

On Saturday 30th March Mr John Patrick gave a lecture on "The Origin and Development of the English Landscape Move-

State News

Queensland

The address of Mr Michael Percy, State Organizer, is now: 27 Jordan Street, Greenslopes, 4120: tel (07) 394.3639.

ment" in the Uniting Church Hall, Bowral.

Forthcoming activities include:

On Sunday 14th April a garden inspection in the Goulburn-Crookwell area, which will include two Edna Walling gardens.

On Friday 24th and Saturday 25th May Trevor Nottle will give two lectures on "Old-fashioned Roses and the Australian Flower Garden". The Friday lecture will be at the School of Architecture, University of Sydney; the Saturday lecture in the Uniting Church Hall, Bowral. Reservation forms for these lectures are enclosed for all NSW and ACT members with this journal.

Statement of Receipts and Payments for the Year ended 31st October 1984

Balance brought forward	11,044.04
Receipts	
Annual subscriptions	7,728.50
Book and booklet sales	433.65
Conference fees	9,705.00
Conference (Adelaide)	
advance	300.00
printing	100.00
Function income	2,668.70
Interest received	1,018.93
Journal sales	41.40
Investment IBD	<u>28,496.18</u>
	6,500.00
	39,540.22
Less Payments	
Audit fees	650.00
Bank charges and duties	70.53
Book and booklet expenses	3,837.52
Committee members expenses	447.80
Conference, Adelaide	9,118.18
Conference, Victoria	500.00
Expenses, Secretary	964.76
Function expenses	1,391.14
Journal expenses	8,896.05
Investment IBD	6,500.00
Balance carried forward	<u>32,375.98</u>
	<u>7,164.24</u>
Represented by	
ANZ Bank cheque account	1,083.78
ANZ (NSW) Savings account	5,713.76
ANZ (WA) Bank account	166.70
Loan, SA Branch	200.00
	7,164.24

Audit Report

We have audited the books of account and vouchers of The Australian Garden History Society for the year ended 31st October 1984 and have obtained all the information and explanations required.

In our opinion the attached statement of receipts and payments is properly drawn up so as to give a true and fair view of The Australian Garden History Society's affairs, according to the best of our information and the explanations given to us and as shown by the records kept.

(signed)

Travis and Travis

A.J. Pierce

A Member of the Firm
Chartered Accountants

Lecture Tour by Chinese Professor

The Australian Garden History Society, in association with the Australian Institute of Landscape Architects, will be sponsoring a nation-wide lecture tour in June and July this year by Professor Sun Xiaoxiang, Professor of Landscape Planning and Garden Design at Beijing Forestry College, Peoples' Republic of China.

Professor Sun has been awarded the 1985 Haydn Williams Fellowship at the Western Australian Institute of Technology, where he will be lecturing during April, May and the early part of June. It is anticipated that his lecture tour will commence in Adelaide on or about 17th June, and that thereafter he will visit Melbourne, Hobart, Sydney, Canberra and Brisbane over a period of five to six weeks.

He will be accompanied by his wife, Associate Professor Zhu Cheng-Luo, who is a Professor of Horticulture, also at Beijing Forestry College.

Further details will be published in our June journal.



Australian Trust for Conservation Volunteers

The NSW Branch of the Trust has a number of tasks on hand and is seeking volunteers. Forthcoming tasks include the following:

April 13-14 and June 22-23; at Wirrimbirra Sanctuary, near Bargo; weeding, planting and track maintenance.

April 20-21; at Sharpe's Farm, Orange; tree planting and fencing.

April 27-28, May 11-17 and June 8-10; at Harvey's Farm, Bathurst; tree planting and fencing.

May 4-11 and May 25-26; at Castle Cove and Northbridge; track building and planting.

May 4-11; at Lyre Bird Dell, Leura; weeding.

May 8-16; at Tathra, near Bega; removal of bitou bush.

May 11-17; at Mackay and Dark Park; replanting in the rainforest.

June 15-16; at Newhaven Park, George's Plains; fencing, irrigation and tree planting.

Further information is available from Alex Tucker on (02) 451.4028 or Sue Baker on (02) 570.5084.



FLOWERING BULBS AND TUBERS,

CULTIVATED FOR SALE BY

THOMAS LANG & CO.,
 NURSERYMEN, SEEDSMEN & FLORISTS,
 52 ELIZABETH STREET, MELBOURNE; AND BRIDGE STREET, BALLARAT.

INTRODUCTORY REMARKS.

There is no tribe of plants more suited for cultivation in the Australian colonies than Flowering Bulbs and Tubers. They are generally planted in autumn, and flower freely in the commencement of summer in all their freshness and beauty before the hot weather or the hot winds can impair their splendour. First come the brilliant Anemones, the showy Crocuses, the lovely Narcissus tribe, the stately Hyacinths, the free-flowering Ixias and Sparaxis, the elegant Ranunculus, and the numerous varieties of English and double Tulips. These keep the garden gay for two months at any rate. Then follow the Gladiolus in infinite variety, and the Lilliums, that exquisite and attractive tribe of plants. Indeed the very naming of all these genera call up delightful pictures of gay flowers, delicious perfumes, plants of lovely forms and habits not to be surpassed in any other tribes.

Our stock of Bulbs being now very large, we can afford to be liberal in giving COLLECTIONS of full value, when the selection is left to us. The collections we have hitherto sent out have given universal satisfaction.

Collection of Bulbs for Ten Shillings.
 Collection of Bulbs for Twenty Shillings.
 Collection of Bulbs for Fifty Shillings.
 Collection of Bulbs for Five Pounds.
 Collection of Bulbs for Ten Pounds.

In all cases liberal and full value will be given when collections are ordered. The purchaser is requested to indicate what genera he wants most of, and what he wishes us to avoid sending.

ALLIUM.

We have received this season from Holland a few species of the above genus, which are hardy, and flower in summer.

Price 1s each, or six for 4s 6d.

3599	Allium fragrans
3600	Do nutans
3601	Do roseum
3602	Do inodorum
3603	Do striatum
3604	Do subhirsutum

AMARYLLIS.

The best time for planting Amaryllis is during July, August, and September.

		s. d.
A. atamasco (Zephyranthes atamasco)	...	each 0 6
A. belladonna (Belladonna Lily), delicate pink	...	each 1 6
A. formosissima (Sprekelia formosissima) deep crimson	...	each 2 0
A. longifolium (Crinum capense)	each 2 0
A. lutea (Sternbergia lutea), yellow, autumn flowering	...	each 0 6
A. sarniensis (Nerine sarniensis) Guernsey Lily	...	each 1 0
A. purpurea (Vallota purpurea), bright orange scarlet	2s 6d to 3	6
A. hybrida, not named, very showy	...	2s 6d to 3 6

NAMED VARIETIES.

The following named varieties were imported from Holland, and good flowering roots may be had at 10s. 6d. each.

2968	Albigel
2969	Heemstrae Calima
2970	Utopia grandiflora
2971	Utopia
2972	Catharinae pacifica
2973	Rosa
2974	Priscilla
2975	Utopia
2976	Johnstonea grandiflora
2977	Leontine
2978	Laurence Coates

2961	Juliane de Stael
2962	Maria
2963	Reine des Fleur
2964	Nabia purpurea
2965	Ramona
2966	Reina
2967	Schambauer
2968	Eichsfeld
2969	Sophia
2970	Vittata multiflora
2971	Vittata rubra

ANEMONE.

These should be planted in March, April, and May. We cannot undertake to execute orders for Anemones after 1st May.

When selection is left to us we furnish—

12 distinct named varieties, double	... for 4s.
20 Do do do	... for 6s.

When the varieties are selected by the purchaser, 6d. each.

ANEMONE CORONARIA DOUBLE.

Names and Descriptions.

3669	Agnarius	... white
3729	Agnes	... red and carmine
3730	Belle Emilie	
3731	Bleu aimable	... lilac
3732	Bleu azur	... blueish lilac
3733	Commander-in-Chief	... scarlet
3734	Duchess de Loheringen	red
3735	Fanny	... cerise
3736	Feu incomparable	... scarlet and purple
3737	Flora perfecta	... rose and white striped
3738	Josephine	... scarlet
3739	Julie	... dark red and green
3740	King of the Blue	... blue
3742	King of the Scarlet	... scarlet
3741	Lady Ardens	... red variegated
3668	La majestueuse	
3743	Leverrier	... cerise
3665	Lord Palmerston	
3667	L'Ornement de la Nature	
3744	Marie Antoinette	... red striped
3745	Maria Christina	
3746	Maria Stuart	... scarlet, a little variegated
3747	Miss Nightingale	
3748	Navarino	... red
3749	Parfait	... lilac
3750	Princess Alice	... cerise red
3751	Reine du Monde	... red
3752	Thalia	... rose and green

ANEMONE HORTENSIS, DOUBLE.

The following varieties are offered at 6s. per dozen.

3671	Alphonse	3683 Madeline
3672	Brilliant	3684 Martinet
3673	Cassandra	3685 Napoleon
3674	Coeur tendre	3686 Orion
3675	Dominicus	3687 Ornement
3676	Etna	3688 Pompeius
3677	Favourite	3689 Pyramide
3678	Heclia	3689 1/2 Reine de Prusse
3679	Heysius	3690 Rose d'amour
3694	Julius	3690 1/2 Speciosa
3680	La fidele	3691 Surand
3681	La plaisante	3692 Sylvia
3682	La vierge	3693 Triton

CROCUS.

We cannot undertake to execute orders for Crocus after April 1st.

Mixed Crocus	... 3s. per dozen	
Named varieties	... 4s. per dozen	
170	Admiral Parker	... dark purple
171	Aletta Wilhelmina	... white and violet
173	Argus	... violet and white
175	Bicolor	... lilac tipped with white
179	Blue	... blue
180	Coelestina	... white and violet, variegated
181	Coelestina Maria	... white and violet
182	David	... white striped
193	General Pelissier	... white variegated and striped

Thomas Lang, Nurseryman

by Barney Hutton

Part 1

Thomas Lang was born in 1815, the son of Andrew Lang, who had gone to Saint Croix, a Danish island in the West Indies, when sixteen years old as a cadet to a sugar planter. Here he married Ellison Burnet Grey. Their two sons, Gilbert and Thomas, were left in Scotland in 1821 with their grandmother, who lived in Irvine, in Ayrshire. The reason for this was that they could attend the Irvine Royal Academy. Gilbert certainly went there (Kilmarnock Standard 19 Oct 1918) and most probably Thomas as well, as he was well educated and had a knowledge of Greek.

Gilbert, a very able student, went on to Glasgow University and studied medicine. He died before Thomas came to Australia. There is in the possession of Thomas' great grand daughter a book of botanical illustrations published by W.J. Hooker to illustrate his lectures. In it is written "The Lang, 1832". It is thought that Thomas was supposed to study law, but evidently botany was of greater interest. Whether he completed a university course is uncertain as the university records of that time are very incomplete.

We do know that Lang went to Kilmarnock from Irvine in 1832. He had an uncle there, Thomas Sawson, who had a long established nursery. It is thought that Lang probably worked for his

uncle for a time and may even have been apprenticed to him. At some stage, however, he set up as a nurseryman on his own account. The earliest reference to him as a nurseryman is in a Kilmarnock Directory of 1846-47. The Directory for 1851 has his name scored through and "failed" has been written in. Possibly there was not room for another nursery in the town. When in Kilmarnock he was a popular contributor to the Press; he also issued a monthly "Commercial Circular and Journal of Information for Purchasers of Seeds, Plants, etc". He obviously had wide intellectual interests for in 1839 he gave one of his first lectures on mesmerism before the Philosophical Institute in Kilmarnock. When the two brothers Pitman visited the town in 1842 he learnt "the beautiful system of phonetic shorthand", and later on in Australia published a pamphlet on the "winged art" as the Kilmarnock Standard puts it. It is not known what happened to Thomas when he failed in 1851, but he is listed in the Kilmarnock Directory for that year as Treasurer of the Kilmarnock Library.

After his business failed, he may have had a private arrangement with his uncle, Thomas Sawson, for there is no record of his name appearing in the Registers of Sequestration for the period 1849-1852 at the Scottish Record Office, but E.E. Pescott says that in later years he paid his creditors in full (Pioneers of Victorian Horticulture).

One can only suppose that the discovery of gold in 1851 and the opportunities a new country offered gave Thomas hope of starting afresh. In any case in June 1854 he embarked at Liverpool on the "Great Britain", at that time the largest vessel afloat, and arrived in Sydney in October of that year. He proceeded to Geelong and then to Ballarat, where he arrived on May 4th 1855.

DANA STREET HILL
SHOWING METHODIST HALL
BEFORE THE PRESENT CHURCH
WAS BUILT FOREGROUND
NURSERY REAR CHRISTH
CHURCH



THOMAS LANG'S NURSERY, CORNER DANA STREET & ALBERT STREET, BALLARAT; THE BUILDING IN THE CENTRE IS THE METHODIST CHURCH, DANA STREET: photograph reproduced by permission of Ballarat Historical Park Association, Sovereign Hill Goldmining Township, Ballarat

His wife Matilde arrived a year later with their children.

In Ballarat he soon started trading in general stores, for in July 1856 he advertised a variety of goods such as American bacon, sugar sticks, biscuits, mixed confections, boots, enamelled Napoleons and seeds, obtainable at his store on the Main Road near the bridge (now Bridge Street) (BS 19/7/56). Not long after, in October of that year, he had moved across the road to more commodious premises, and was trading in hay, corn and horse feed, potatoes and flour. He was undoubtedly preparing to go into the nursery business for on 7th July 1857 the Ballarat Star notes "As one of the increasing evidences of our progress we may draw attention to the greenhouse and nursery just erected by Mr Lang and in part overhanging the Yarrowee at the bridge. The heaths and flowers and shrubs have a pleasant lookout on the mud, but passers-by have much pleasanter looking on them ... and it is not amiss to be now and then reminded of the beautiful and ornamental in the agreeable way Mr Lang's little nursery conveys the reminder".

In April 1859 he is praised for his display of prize wheat samples from the Melbourne and Ballarat shows which was done as an encouragement to local farmers (BS 15/4/59). Later in the year he was advertising not only provisions, which now included oatmeal "sweet as a nut" from his native Ayrshire, but also fruit trees, roses and other plants and garden tools (BS 5/7/59).

This was a busy time for Thomas as on 11th October 1859 the Ballarat Horticultural Society was formed. He was its first Treasurer and only six weeks later the Society held its first flower show. At this show he gained several prizes, among them one for roses and one for his giant rhubarb (BS 26/11/59).

A year later Lang was advertising greenhouse plants which filled his elegant greenhouse on the Main Road". At the same time he intimates that William Elliott of the Creswick Nursery had become a partner. This would naturally have increased his stock of plants. He also advertised "gardens laid out and stocked with plants", but so far no evidence has come to light of gardens for whose design he was responsible.

In March 1861 we learn that he was about to issue a "list of bulbous plants" (BS 18/3/61). It is of more than usual interest to note here that in regard to nursery catalogues in this country, no nursery is so well documented as that of Thomas Lang. His catalogues are serially numbered and dated. Because of the cost of printing, many nurseries issued a catalogue which remained unchanged for several years with a loose leaf insertion giving details of new plants for the current year. This makes it difficult to date some catalogues with certainty.

The first extant Lang catalogue, No 11, is for 1865. The serial numbers that I know of run to No 46 to May 1874. Sixteen catalogues are now in the Victorian State Library, Melbourne, three that are unknown over here are in the RHS Library in London, as well as several of which copies are here, and in the Mitchell Library. Enquiries I made of the Dick Institute, Kilmarnock, have brought to light a further three copies not previously recorded.

By 1860 Lang had a nursery of 20 acres at Warrenheip near Ballarat. It is clear that he was now beginning to market his own seeds, for a list of 1860 mentions carrot, onion, parsnip, dahlia and hollyhock "saved in our nursery". He also advertised a "large collection of roses at 15s and 20s a dozen, though the Persian Yellow Rose is 3s 6d a plant. He had over three hundred varieties of flower seeds, and for dahlias he issued a printed catalogue listing 200 varieties (BS 1/11/60), and claimed to have the finest collection in the Australian Colonies (BS 12/11/61).

We know from an advertisement in the Ballarat Star of 1st

Water Lilies

All Colours

Large Range of both Tropical and Hardy
Also Aquatic, Marginal and Moisture Loving Plants
Stockists of Pumps for Waterfalls, Fountains, Statues & Gargoyles.
Do-It-Yourself Safe Low Voltage Garden Lighting
for Paths, Ponds, Waterfalls & Patios.

Write now for descriptive literature — \$1.50 postage paid

The Water Garden Nursery

(Mountain Fisheries)

P.O. Box 68C, EMERALD, VICTORIA 3782

May 1861 that Lang had a bulb catalogue, which has Cape bulbs of several sorts as well as hyacinths and tulips recently imported from Holland. His 1867 bulb catalogue is of great interest, comparing what was available then and what is available to-day. For hyacinths there were 47 single white varieties and 49 single red. But for double hyacinths there were 21 blue varieties, 36 red and 25 white. I wonder if any doubles are available to-day even in Europe?

In regard to ranunculus Lang lists 218 varieties at 1s and 4s each. Parkinson mentions 8 varieties in 1629; Maddock had 800 named varieties in 1792, and in 1835 there were 140 named varieties at the Cambridge Florists' Show. So Lang wasn't doing too badly.

Hedge plants were an important item at the time. The thorn-quick (hawthorn), Osage Orange at 20s per 100, Sweet Briar at 10s per 100, as well as Cape Broom, Prickly Acacia, *Gleditschia tricanthus* and Gorse were also listed in this catalogue. Whilst hawthorn and gorse hedges can still be seen around Ballarat, Osage Orange, if it was used, is not evident there as far as I can ascertain, though it is still to be seen along some fences in north-eastern Victoria.

Conifers were very much in vogue in the latter part of the 19th century. Lang, like other nurserymen, had a good selection. Late in 1861 he received direct from India seeds which included *Cedrus deodora* and *Cupressus torulosa*. But perhaps of greater interest is the fact that he imported seeds from Shanghai for the use of Chinese gardeners. These were displayed in his shop window with the Chinese labels on them (BS 11/11/61). At this time there were 1282 Chinese in East Ballarat (p150 The Lucky City, Weston Bate), and of these many must have been gardeners. According to a police report of 1869 there were 150 Chinese gardeners (Nieholt Papers, Ballarat Hist. Soc.).

In 1861 the Ballarat Tribune of 5th December paid a charming tribute to the "oasis" Mr Lang had placed on the Main Road in these words "After seeing a long string of buildings suggestive of a long round of business toil, it is a positive treat to fall upon such a lovely little spot as the garden in Bridge Street. The flowers are now in full bloom, and the passers-by seem fully to appreciate the luxury of gazing upon them. The perfume in the early morning scents the air".

(To be continued)

Puppies Ears Please

by Trevor Nottle

Choosing daffodils for garden display from the hundreds of varieties available to-day is hard going unless flowers can be seen at bloom time and even then there is a marked difference between flowers displayed in a vase and the appearance of the same flowers in a garden setting. Most gardeners are at first drawn by the eye-catching varieties which stand out on a display stand but these may not always be what is needed to fulfil a garden scheme. Many modern hybrids are extremely large and vibrantly coloured, but the size of the flowers and their weight often render them unsuitable for garden conditions where they must recover after rain and wind have driven them down; quite frequently the flowers are so massive and gross that they cannot recover after they have been blown over. Just as important as this consideration is the demeanour of the plants, their grace and charm. In gardens we generally require plants that will contribute to but not dominate the whole scene. Unfortunately many of the modern daffodils, by their strident colours and exuberant flowers, cannot help but overwhelm a piece of gardening. If daffodils are required which are graceful, charming, resilient and sprightly some less obvious varieties need to be sought . . . and this is where the puppies' ears come in, for this term has been applied to a class of daffodil that fills all these requirements. These are the *Cyclamineus* hybrids derived from the rare and diminutive *Narcissus cyclamineus*, from the damp meadows of north-western Portugal. A quote from the English authority and daffodil breeder Michael Jefferson-Brown will explain the allusion to canine auricles:

"One of the rarest of the adornments of the Portuguese flora is *Narcissus cyclamineus*, the comedian of the genus. At the very beginning of the daffodil season he shows his small golden face to a wide universe that waits smiling. The flowers are modelled on a spirit of comedy, a touch of the pathetic, of exaggeration, of bashfulness, blended with good humour and art. The stems stand six inches high, their golden heads looking down to the soil that covers their toes, their long narrow trumpets and petals reflexed back sharply like the ears of a pleased puppy, and in the manner of the *Cyclamen* family after which it was named". (Daffodils and *Narcissus*, Michael Jefferson-Brown; Faber and Faber, 1969; pp 17-18).

In Australia *Narcissus cyclamineus* is extremely rare, certainly not the sort of bulb likely to be found in the lists of big bulb merchants, or even smaller specialists; much more likely to be seen in the collections of keen alpine plant growers and plantsmen who have been fortunate to raise a few from seed the sort of plant that may remain on a "Wish List" for many, many years. This need not prevent enjoyment of the unique form as there are a good many hybrids about which retain the windswept trumpet and petals and which are freely available.

In the original species the entire flower hangs downwards but as it is very small this adds even more to its demure appearance. The larger hybrids tend to be held more at right angles to the stem, usually beginning in a pendant pose but rising as the flower expands to full bloom. As a group the *Cyclamineus* hybrids fall into two fairly distinct groups; those that are large enough to grow in the open ground, and those so small that pot culture or confinement in some closely gardened area is best for their safe keeping.

Among the larger varieties the tallest is "Peeping Tom", which is also the most vigorous. It is a clear uniform yellow with very reflexed petals and a very narrow trumpet. The overall effect is windswept and "snooty" — a rather curious way of describing its caricature of "Piglet" from "Winnie-the-Pooh". At 14 inches tall it is very useful for planting in informal garden areas where flowers of carefree appearance are needed. Not much shorter (10 inches) is "Cyclades", named after the Greek islands; it, too, is very useful in the general garden. Varieties of lesser stature, though of great character, are "February Gold", "The Little Gentleman", "Cornet", and "Little Witch" — all are yellow, though they vary from the deep all gold of "February Gold" and "The Little Gentleman" to the clear yellows of the last two. Quite different are two further varieties, "Roger" and "Beryl", a delightful couple but inclined to be rather crotchety if conditions aren't up to scratch; they insist on cool conditions and semi-shade. They are hybrids with the late flowering Poet's Daffodils, and carry broad back-swept petals, pale yellow in "Beryl" and creamy-white in "Roger". Both have light orange cups which are short and rimless. "Beryl" grows about 6 inches tall, and "Roger" (with larger flowers also) will reach 8 inches.

The small *Cyclamineus* hybrids are best grown in some small closely gardened bed where they may be watched over and at the same time enjoy the company of other small treasures. It is just as possible that they may be treated as potted plants, though in this case they will need careful attention to see that once the plants have dried off they do not get baked, for the small bulbs are easily destroyed by rots if they get over-heated and "cooked". After *N. cyclamineus* itself "Tete-a-Tete" is the smallest hybrid at about 5 inches. It is a very early bloomer and can be relied on for two tiny blooms per stem, each one gold with a tangerine cup. Three others that have done well in a mixed planting of small bulbs are "Jenny", palest lemon fading to white, "Dove Wings", pale primrose yellow with a white cup, and "Charity Maid", which is soft yellow.

Bearing in mind the parent of all these hybrids, *N. cyclamineus*, comes from water meadows high in the mountains of north-western Portugal, it would seem wise not to try these bulbs in the same dry spots where Tazettas (as "Jonquils" should be called) might be planted. The varieties "Tete-a-Tete", "Beryl",

The
Garden Walk Nursery
specialising in
'old fashioned plants'

199 NEW STREET,
BRIGHTON.
VICTORIA, 3186.
Ph: (03) 592 6464

and "Roger", in particular, need some light shade and soil which remains lightly damp all through the dormant season. The other varieties are less fussy but are still not up to the dry conditions which the more common hybrids will take. It is also important, despite the relative smallness of the bulbs, not to plant them too shallowly — even the smallest should be 2 to 3 inches below the surface of the soil. The bulbs need only light feeding to prosper, a light dusting with blood and bone or a complete fertilizer should suffice. This should be applied at the end of autumn and carefully scratched into the topsoil. After flowering the foliage should be left to ripen naturally, on no account should it be trimmed,

below: PEEPING TOM



above: BERYL

tied in knots or otherwise manhandled. A good way to manage the ripening foliage is to interplant some small annuals which will grow over the foliage by early summer. This way the final stages of the growth cycle will be adequately hidden and at the same time the watering required by the annuals will serve to keep the bulbs in tip-top condition.

Bulbs of these varieties are usually available, over a rotation of several years, from J.N. Hancock & Co., Jacksons Hill Road, Menzies Creek, Vic. 3159.

Seed of *N. cyclamineus* is usually available to members of the Royal Horticultural Society through its annual seed distribution.

New Roses in the Old Tradition

by Ross Boaden

In recent years there has been a revival of interest in old-fashioned roses. Despite their eclipse by the hybrid perpetuals in the first half of the nineteenth century, there remained a small group in Europe dedicated to their survival; but in Australia, New Zealand and other European colonies of the time, they were largely forgotten.

The old roses had perfume, a wide range of flower shape and style, a comparable colour range, they flowered prolifically, and were supported by bushes of diversity and individual interest. The hybrid perpetuals on the other hand had little perfume, tended to flower sparsely, and were carried on rangy and not particularly elegant bushes. Why then were they so successful? It was simple, they flowered more or less continuously through summer and autumn where the old roses flowered only once in early summer. Why then have they returned to favour? This is less simple to answer, but it could be associated with a growing interest in landscaping and in gardens as entities rather than merely places to raise desirable plants. It could also be a reaction



LEANDER

New Roses in the Old Tradition (continued)

right: CANTERBURY
below left: PROUD TITANIA



to the relative formality of the rigid bushes and often flamboyant colours of to-day's hybrid teas. As the title of Nancy Steen's book expresses it, to "The Charm of Old Roses".

The ancient, as opposed to the merely old-fashioned roses of Europe, were the Gallicas, Albas, Damasks and Centifolias. The

expansion of world trade, even from Roman times, enabled travellers to return with new roses from all over the world, and doubtless some of their characteristics were transferred to the resident groups. Development was slow, however. Things speeded up, strangely, as a result of the French Revolution. There were two



above right: PROSPERO
left: THE YEOMAN

aspects to this, both associated with Napoleon. The first was that the Empress Josephine instructed her gardeners to obtain specimens of every rose then available, and to plant them in her garden at Malmaison. The second was that Napoleon was as dedicated to "high technology" of his day as is Mr Barry Jones to-day. Thus it was that the French rosarians were presented with a compact pool of virtually all the genetic material available, and a scientific climate within which to use it. It is not surprising that the successful new hybrid families of the day bore names such as Boursault, Noisette and Bourbon.

This was the position of rose culture in the first half of the nineteenth century. The next landmark was a revolution in itself, the development of the Hybrid Perpetuals. In 1678 a small pink rose, reputedly from China, was found growing in an Italian monastery. It was remarkable in that it was said to flower all the year round. In 1750 it was identified growing in Canton; it was the now famous "China Rose". Doubtless it was represented in Josephine's collection. The China Rose had the then almost unique capacity for flowering continuously from summer to autumn in temperate climates. Eventually this attribute was transferred to the single-flowering roses of the day, and the hybrid perpetual was born. The superseded roses became "old-fashioned" from about 1850.

They became even more old-fashioned when rose breeders were at last successful in producing a fertile hybrid with the "Austrian Briar". This happened in 1888. It introduced flame and yellow tints, and gave us to-day's favourite, the Hybrid Tea.

Graham Thomas, an English rosarian of note, comments on these revolutions in his book "The Old Shrub Roses". He takes the matter further by saying: "Just where and when the next revolution may occur remains to be seen, but I suspect and predict that it is going to be some great perpetual flowering shrub rose which will produce numerous progeny". He wrote that in 1955.

Six years later a certain David Austin, then employed at the Sunningdale Nurseries in England, successfully crossed "Belle Isis", an 1845 Gallica, with "Dainty Maid", a 1938 Floribunda. In effect this was a crossing of the old with the new, as the Gallicas are one of the most ancient roses. The daughter of the union was "Constance Spry", a heavily perfumed, old-fashioned style of rose that won its breeder instant acclaim. One may surmise that even then David Austin was attempting to develop a recurrent flowering old-fashioned style of rose.

It was a task of enormous difficulty, for the genetic make-up of modern roses is so complex that few if any fertile seeds can be expected from distant crossings. In addition, recurrent flowering is controlled by a recessive gene which must therefore be present in each of the four sets of genes in the cells of modern roses. Should any one of the four sets have the dominant single-flowering gene, the rose flowers once only. One therefore needs to obtain fertile seeds, and then hope that all the gene pennies turn up heads in that throw. But there is no knowing whether or not one or more of the pennies is double-tailed.

However, David Austin persevered and was successful. By 1969 he had produced five roses that were "old-fashioned" in shape and style of both flower and bush, but also recurrent in flowering; these were "Canterbury", "Dame Prudence", "The Prioress", "The Yeoman" and "The Wife of Bath". He had been able to marry the desirable qualities of old roses, diversity of flower appearance, bush habit and retention of perfume, with the modern capacity for recurrent flowering together with yellow and flame hues. Thus David Austin produces not "old-fashioned

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roses" but "new roses in the old tradition". Perhaps this is Graham Thomas' fourth revolution in rose breeding.

Note

The David Austin roses are being grown in Australia by Ross Boaden, whose address is: The Perfumed Garden Pty Ltd, 47 Rendlesham Avenue, Mount Eliza, Vic. 3930; he warns, however, that many varieties are already sold out for this year.

The following are David Austin's own descriptions of the roses:

Admired Miranda: pure blush pink, full petalled rosette shape, rich fragrance; 3 x 2 feet.

Canterbury: large flat pure pink, slightly wavy petals, fragrant; 3 x 3 feet.

Charles Austin: very large cupped bloom, apricot and yellow fading with age, strong fruity fragrance; 5 x 4 feet.

Charmian: large full rich pink flowers cupped at first later reflexing to form a rosette, very rich fragrance; 3 x 3 feet.

Chaucer: large deeply cupped delicate pink flowers, strong fragrance; 3 x 3 feet.

Cymbeline: unique shade of light greyish pink, shallow saucer shaped flower well filled with petals, strong fragrance; 3 x 4 feet.

Dame Prudence: small twiggy bush with pretty buds opening to fairly full blush pink flowers, fragrant; 2 x 3 feet.

Hero: double glistening pink flowers of full petalled paeony-like formation, rich fragrance; 4 x 3 feet.

Leander: very small double rambler-like blooms in large bunches, apricot colouring, sharp fruity scent; 5 x 4 feet.

Lilian Austin: flat semi-double flowers, rich salmon pink tinted with orange and apricot, strong fragrance; 4 x 4 feet.

Lordly Oberon: large deep flower with numerous petals cupped, soft pink, rich fragrance; 4 x 3 feet.

Prospero: a perfect Gallica rose with its numerous small petals arranged in a perfect rosette, richest crimson turning with age to purple; 2 x 3 feet.

Proud Titania: glistening white flowers starting as a shallow well filled cup, later recurving to form a shallow mould of shining petals, fragrant; 4 x 3 feet.

The Miller: slightly cupped old-fashioned double flowers of clear pink in small and large sprays, fragrant; 5 x 6 feet.

The Prioress: blush tinted bloom of chalice shape with stamens visible, fragrant; 4 x 3 feet.

The Reeve: dusky pink flowers of globular shape with incurving petals, strong fragrance; 4 x 4 feet.

The Yeoman: rosette of clear translucent pink lightly mixed with apricot, strong fragrance; 3 x 2 feet.

Wife of Bath: full warm pink, old-fashioned rose, strong fragrance; 3 x 2 feet.

Yellow Button: deep yellow sometimes splashed with yolk yellow at the centre and paling to light yellow with age, rosette shaped and fragrant; 3 x 3 feet.

Yellow Charles Austin: a sport of Charles Austin, similar in every respect except in colour which is lemon yellow.

Glastonbury: crimson.

The Friar: apricot blush.

The Knight: purple.

Once-flowering varieties

Chianti: large Gallica-like rosette in deep crimson turning with age to rich purple, powerful fragrance; 5 x 5 feet.

Constance Spry: exceptionally large clear pink paeony-like blooms, with a luminous delicacy hard to compare with other roses, one of the most glorious of all climbers, strong myrrh-like fragrance.

Shropshire Lass: large flat almost single flowers of delicate flesh pink with prominent stamens, pleasing but not pronounced fragrance, equally good as a climber; 8 x 6 feet.



A Spectacular Ericaceous Vine

by Tim North

Readers of "The Garden" may have read, in the April 1984 issue, a note on *Dimorphotheca kempferiana* and *D. moorhouiana*. This note referred to an article by Canon Crutwell in the Journal of the Australian Rhododendron Society, and I am grateful to Mr J. Clyde Smith, editor of that journal, and also to Mr John S. Womersley, botanical consultant of Westbourne Park, South Australia, for supplying further information about this beautiful and unusual plant.

Canon Crutwell, writing in the Australian Rhododendron Society's journal for August 1962, describes *D. moorhouiana* as "one of the most magnificent ornamental plants I have ever seen. The first sign of its presence is usually a glowing carpet of fallen rosy blossoms spread on the forest floor. You then lift up your eyes to the canopy of foliage above your head and see great ropes and sprays of rosy-pink and coral red cascading from the tree tops. The effect is similar to that of a Bougainvillea, but there is

no purple in the shade". The Canon goes on to say that "when at its best its sprays are solid ropes of flowers, the bell-shaped corollas packed so close that you could scarcely put a pin between them without piercing them".

He was describing a plant he had seen in its native habitat of Papua New Guinea. The generic name, which refers to the different shaped stamens, was first used in 1886 by von Mueller, and the first species he described was named after the Right Reverend Doctor Moorhouse, who had been Lord Bishop of Melbourne before becoming Bishop of Manchester in 1886. There are some seventy known species, two occurring in the Phillipines, one in the Moluccas, three or four in the Bismarck Archipelago, while all the others are from Papua New Guinea.

These plants occur in nature as both terrestrial and epiphytic shrubs or as lianas, while two species are small trees. Most are very robust plants that sprawl through and over other vegetation. Some species flower exclusively on old wood while others appear to flower also on new shoots. *D. kempferiana* is said to produce flowers only on a branch two or more years old.

D. kempferiana was first grown at the Royal Botanic Gardens, Edinburgh, in 1968, and has flowered spectacularly in the Ericaceae house there several times since. All the plants grown at Edinburgh are in well drained peaty compost, and have a minimum night temperature of 13 degrees Celsius. In March 1983 a plant of *D. kempferiana* from the Royal Botanic Gardens, Edinburgh, was shown at the R.H.S. monthly show in London and was granted an Award of Merit as an ornamental flowering plant for the temperate greenhouse.

Writing in "The Plantsman" in June 1984 Paddy Woods, of the Royal Botanic Gardens, Edinburgh, reported that *Dimorphotheca* species are easily raised from cuttings in a closed frame or under mist, though roots may be produced slowly. Living material collected in the form of cuttings or young established plants, however, is said to have little chance of growing, while very small seedlings which may occur in large numbers as early colonizers on recently exposed banks or landslips have a greater chance of survival, and can be gently teased from the ground with little damage to the root systems. Paddy Woods has found that small plastic bottles or empty metal pill containers are better than plastic bags for transplanting these seedlings — John Womersley suggests film cassette containers would also be suitable. These seedling plants, however, cannot be identified with certainty until they eventually flower, a disadvantage greatly outweighed, says Mr Woods, by the high percentage of plants successfully established.

Seed is reported as being difficult to collect, since the fruits, even if accessible, are invariably eaten by birds. Some seed that has been collected has shown poor germination possibly, according to John Womersley, because it has not been completely cleaned of sugary material which occurs when the seed is passed through the gut of birds.

John Womersley warns that we are still a long way from promoting these plants for general garden cultivation in suitable parts of Australia, but on the other hand he suggests that there is scope for more experimental work in Australia, as is being done at Edinburgh.

References:

Dimorphotheca, a genus new to cultivation; P.J.B. Woods (The Plantsman, Vol 6, part 1, June 1984)

Rhododendrons on Trees in Papua New Guinea; Rev. Norman Crutwell (Jnl. Aust. Rhodo. Soc. Aug 1962)

John S. Womersley; personal correspondence.

Old Friends, New Friends — some recent plant introductions

by Roy Lancaster

(reprinted by permission from Newsletter No 5 of the National Council for the Conservation of Plants and Gardens)

Some people suppose that plant exploration is all about the search for plants new to science or at least new to cultivation in the West. While no one would deny the special thrill of such discoveries it is more often than not the re-introduction of plants lost to cultivation that justifies the plant collector's continued existence. Time was when each or every other plant found by an explorer was a "novelty" (new species) but those days are long gone, certainly as far as the temperate regions are concerned.

Anyone, having read the journals, field notes or accounts of the more famous plant hunters will be aware of the enormous number of plants they introduced which are no longer in cultivation. There are many reasons for this unhappy situation, some of which continue to bedevil to-day's plant explorers but this is meat for another pie and need not concern us here.

Leaving aside those plants of little or no ornamental or eco-

nomic value and those requiring artificial heat in our climate, there remains great scope for the intelligent introduction of worthwhile plants previously cultivated and since lost. I emphasise intelligent, as more harm than good is done by the kind of haphazard, undiscerning collecting practised by some amateur travellers.

In recent years a fair number of "lost" ornamental plants have been re-introduced from the world's temperate regions. Predictably, the most important source of these plants has been China. In 1910 the Royal Botanic Gardens, Kew, received from the French nursery firm of Vilmorin plants of a *Clematis* species newly introduced from Yunnan Province by the missionary botanist Jean Delavay. It was named *C. crycosoma*. Now you will be quick to point out that this species is still in cultivation and easily available in the trade, but the free-flowering climber now answering to that name is quite a different plant to the one originally found by Delavay and later by George Forrest. Their plant was a sub-shrub, normally less than 3 feet high, bearing flowers of clear pink with a sheen like fine satin. Unfortunately, it proved less hardy than its present day representative because nothing seems to have been seen of either introduction since before World War Two.

In 1981, the dwarf pink *Clematis chrycosoma* was re-introduced from Delavay's and Forrest's old stomping ground in W. Yunnan by the Sino-British Expedition to the Cangshan and plants are now to be found at the R.B.G. Edinburgh and in the National Clematis Collection at Treasures of Tenbury. Apart from its breeding potential, the species itself, once generally available, will be worth trying outside in the warmer areas of the British



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How many gardeners I wonder, would view with amazement the re-introduction in 1980 of *Berberis wilsoniae*, surely the most popular and commonly cultivated of its clan in the western world. Yet anyone who has taken the trouble to compare nurserymen's plants with a reliable description such as that given by Bean, will quickly conclude that the former are not true *wilsoniae*, excellent though they may be. Before the latest introduction true *wilsoniae* was either extinct in British cultivation or represented by a few scattered individuals. Certainly all the garden plants I ever saw under the name lacked the dwarf compact habit and small neat grey-green leaves of the wild plant, a combination which, together with its round red berries and stunning autumn colour will hopefully once again become a feature of rock gardens and small borders.

Many years ago, when Curator of the Hillier Arboretum, I remember Harold (now Sir Harold) Hillier coming into my office one day in an agitated state. The source of his displeasure was the death of a specimen of *Alniphyllum fortunei*, a rare and lovely member of the *Styrax* family. After examining the shrub we came to the conclusion that it was a victim of the previous winter's frosts rather than the careless thrust of a hoe or spade. A check on the *alniphyllum*'s native distribution in China reveals a liking for wooded slopes at comparatively low elevations in the warmer areas of several provinces. The demise of our plant therefore need not have surprised us but it had survived several winters and it was the only one of its kind in British, perhaps Western, cultivation.

Naturally we were saddened by the event and perhaps you can understand my elation when, ten years later, seeds of the *Alniphyllum* once more became available through the generosity of a Chinese friend in Shanghai. Due mainly to the skills of David Sampson, this seed has resulted in several strong plants which have been distributed to some of the most notable collections in southern England including the Savill Gardens, Wakehurst Place, Abbotsbury's Subtropical Gardens and Caerhays Castle. I cherish a dream that one early summer's day, in the not too distant future, I shall see the handsome white flower racemes of *Alniphyllum* brightening some sheltered woodland garden adding, as a bonus, a rich autumn leaf display of red, orange and purple tints.

It is not only woody plants which have claimed the plant explorers' attention, though the three just described are the tip of the iceberg. Long lost hardy perennials and alpines are again finding their way back into cultivation where skilled and eager hands wait to do them justice. One of the most interesting and exciting examples is the re-introduction from Yunnan in 1981 of Forrest's golden pleione — *P. forrestii*. The story has been told in several recent publications but briefly it was discovered that the single surviving clone of this name was in fact not the real McCoy, but a hybrid. It may be that the 1981 introduction constitutes the first of its kind, either way, the plants are now in both botanical and commercial hands and should eventually be made available to amateur growers of this popular group of near hardy orchids.

Kashmir has been and still is a source of some first class perennials. I have written elsewhere about *Geranium kishtvariense*, a species new to cultivation when it was introduced to Britain in 1978 and the trickle shows no signs of drying. Recently, two expeditions to Kashmir, one organized by the Botany Department of Southampton University and another by the University Bo-

New Roses in the Old Tradition

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tanics Gardens, Gottenburg, have introduced seeds of several plants which, if they have been grown here previously seem to have long since disappeared though they may well languish in some private collection. Among them are two of special merit - *Aquilegia fragrans* and *Morina coulteriana*. The first named is a distinguished perennial in a genus renowned for its beauties. Its flowers, however, show none of the bright colours associated with this genus and open white, the colour of fresh cream. Added to this, as the name implies, is a refreshing fragrance. Anyone having seen this gem flowering in the alpine pastures and rocky places of its native land will marvel as to why it is not available in the trade. The good news is that young plants are now established in several private collections and will soon find their way into general cultivation.

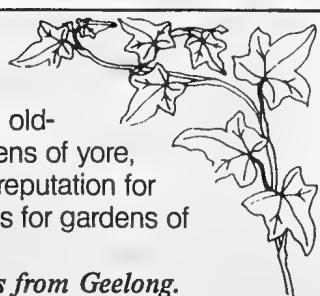
Morina coulteriana is another example of a gardenworthy perennial which must surely have been introduced by someone in the past and since been lost. Those who enjoy the striking rose-pink and white flowers of *M. longifolia* will need no convincing that a buttercup yellow version would be equally attractive, for this is what *M. coulteriana* essentially is. I have two seedlings which have already recovered from slug attack and I can only hope that other recipients of this seed have had at least equal results.

Rosa koreana, *Ligularia jamesii*, *Geranium maximowiczii*, *Sanguisorba sitchensis* — these four plants, unknown to my knowledge in cultivation have recently been introduced from N.E. Asia. All are gardenworthy, all are hardy and may be the first introductions of their kind. They are nevertheless but a handful of the many plants gardeners can look forward to seeing in future cultivation. They join an ever increasing army of plants returning to our gardens from many countries. This time I pray that we shall have learned how to keep them.

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BOOK REVIEWS

The John Tradescants: gardeners to the Rose and Lily Queen

by Prudence Leith-Ross; published by Peter Owen, London; recommended retail price \$49.50. reviewed by Tim North.

I have written about the two John Tradescants previously in this Journal (Australian Garden Journal, December 1984) so it would be superfluous to say anything more here about these two remarkable men.

Suffice it to say that this is the definitive study of their lives and achievements, and the result of some five years research. Much of the material has not been published before since, curiously, little has been written about the Tradescants, the only other modern biography being Mea Allen's "The Tradescants", published in 1964. Miss Leith-Ross points out, however, that this work, eminently readable as it is, omitted much material and contains assertions and conclusions that further research has proved to be incorrect.

This is an enthralling book, for both Tradescants had opportunities of travelling to new or little known lands — John the elder to Russia, the Near East and North Africa, John the younger to the new colony of Virginia. Both were compulsive collectors, not only of plants but of all manner of "curiosities", which led to the first public museum in England.

Of particular interest to many will be the three appendices (which take up almost half the book). The first is a list of plants received by John the elder between 1629 and 1633 (noted in his handwriting on the back of his copy of Parkinson's "Paradisus"); the second is his "Plantarum in Horto", a plant list of 1634, and the third appendix is the entire "Musaeum Tradescantianum", the catalogue of the Tradescant Museum collection.

Miss Leith-Ross' meticulous research has identified, so far as this is possible, those plants which were (a) first grown in England by one or other of the Tradescants, and (b) introduced into England by one or other of them, that is collected in the wild by their own hands. She has, fortunately for us and with equally meticulous care, given wherever possible the modern botanical names for the plants listed; hence we have a remarkable amount of information here about the range of plants that were grown in England in the seventeenth century.

If any criticism can be levelled at this book it is that, in spite of the research and the bombardment with facts and dates, these two men, father and son, remain somewhat dark and enigmatic figures. What sort of men were they, we wonder, and what motivated them to assemble this incredible collection?

Harold Nicholson believed that a good biography should have a little fiction mixed with the facts, in order to transmit the personality of the subject, while Virginia Woolf referred to "the creative fact, the fact that suggests and engenders". If anything is missing from this book it is "the creative fact", for Miss Leith-Ross leaves us to make our own conclusions.

Nevertheless this book makes fascinating reading and is a most important contribution to our knowledge of garden history.

The Well Chosen Garden

by Christopher Lloyd; published by Elm Tree Books, London; recommended retail price \$37.50. reviewed by Trevor Nottle.

"The readers I have in mind are passionately keen on plants but want to make the most of them in the limited space at their disposal (and even with a garden of five acres or more I find myself severely limited). They want to see and enjoy a garden that changes with the seasons and looks good at many seasons in different ways".

Before beginning I must confess that I am an avid fan of Christopher Lloyd; he is my gardening hero and my inspiration. I have all his books, and I save many of his regular articles from "Country Life"; I have even gone so far as to write to him. And now, after a series of highly successful books, jammed full of thoroughly enjoyable reading with few illustrations (28 pages out of 479 in "The Well Tempered Gardener" (Collins, 1970), and 8 out of 248 in "The Adventurous Gardener" (Allen Lane, 1983)), based as Lloyd says on the sufficiency of "word pictures" for individual plants — now we are given Lloyd with pictures. One hundred and eleven of them, taken mostly by the man himself in his own garden, his "workshop", at exactly the right time to pinpoint the relationships he is discussing or to illustrate a point. Coupled with his usual polished and highly individual style the book comes together as a well-rounded effort and a most entertaining and thought-provoking "read".

Enthusiasms aside I shall try to analyse some of the aspects of the book which I feel make it so successful.

Firstly, the illustrations do illustrate; two examples are plates 35 and 56. The first shows the late afternoon sun backlitting plants of *Euphorbia griffithii* "Dixter" and *Oxothamnus ledifolius* — both are burnt orange and they glow; the latter shows a tall grass, *Stipa gigantea*, in bloom, again backlit by the afternoon sun, and the photograph captures the shimmering gleam of the myriad seed heads. Brilliant photography capturing exactly Lloyd's points about setting plants where they can be shown to full advantage against the light.

Secondly, the author has definite ideas and opinions, and he argues them with a skill developed from many years as a professional journalist, backing this up with the force of an equal experience as a gardener whose garden is open to the public and therefore required to be at its peak for many months of the year. His chapters entitled "Roses need Company", "Around the Clock Duties", "Taking in Herbs", "Girth Control", and "Are Your Heathers really Necessary" demonstrate his ability to draw attention to unlikely topics and to develop them. Likewise his chapters "Road Frontage", "Clematis without Walls", "Climbers need not Climb", "Conifers without Gnomery", "Gravel your Garden", "Scents where you Sit", "Two Tier Gardening", "Lighting", "Infillers", "Bold is Beautiful" and "Dry Wall Commune" are readable, thought-provoking and filled with inventive ideas based on a lifetime of experience and experiment in his garden at Great Dixter.

Thirdly, Lloyd is not the one to accept untested the dictates of the horticultural establishment. His view of bedding is not that it is outdated, tasteless, contrived and bad; instead he finds examples of imaginative bedding, comments on it and offers ideas for further developments, and he firmly lays the blame for un-

subtle, tired bedding routines at the feet of unimaginative gardeners: "The production line in a factory really may be soul-destroying, but in gardening, no less for the public than in private, there is infinite scope for skill and experiment. Especially is this true of bedding out, where there is a change of plants twice yearly and never any need to repeat yourself . . . tired routines are for mindless hacks".

Similarly he isn't afraid of developing quite strong contrasts in his garden schemes; witness his startling combination of scarlet, bronze and purple in *Lychnis chalcedonica*, *Helenium "Moorheim Beauty"* and *Salvia nemerosa "Superba"* in plate 34, or the equally rivetting combination of the variegated *Euonymus fortunei "Silver Queen"* with *Gladiolus byzantinus* in plate 25 — effects which would daunt the most ardent followers of the "artistic colourist" school. In truth he does advocate colour harmonies as well but he says "Colour contrasts are a challenge (that great and glorious word). Many gardeners of refined tastes, but timid outlook, are afraid to take them on because it's easy to put a foot wrong, both feet, in fact: They fall back on white gardens and two colour borders".

Finally, he is human, he has trials and failures too and admits them, and what is more important he tells us how he plans to overcome these difficulties, what alternatives he thinks he might develop, which plants could overcome these problems and he continually presents these aspects of gardening not as things to be avoided but as things to be faced with zeal, enthusiasm and bravado — the very things that make gardening such a vital and consuming passion for those prepared to stick to it, to rework, to reconsider, to dare the unusual combination, to try the borders of convention, to make changes and to be always optimistic.

In a word, Lloyd is contagious. His conditions and circumstances are beyond those most Australian gardeners will ever know, yet he is compelling, vital and inspiring because of his attitude towards plants and towards his readers, because he is his own gardener, and because he can write, really write and now he has shown he is an outstanding photographer as well.

Buy it, read it, love it!

Modern Gardens and the Landscape

by Elizabeth B. Kassler; published by The Museum of Modern Art, New York; distributed by Thames and Hudson; recommended retail price \$34.50.
reviewed by John Patrick.

This book was first published in 1964 and has been unavailable for several years. This revised edition is little changed except for the addition of a number of recent works.

Only when viewing gardens retrospectively do they appear to stand out from their period and style; only then do the trends and qualities of real significance become obvious. This book is a distillation of the qualities of gardens of the middle of the twentieth century. Designs are illustrated by one or two photographs, occasionally a line plan and a few words of description. While these are only brief they offer an excellent opportunity to appreciate the work of modern masters.

Where else does one look for illustrations of the work of Marx, Barragan, Lloyd Wright and Halprin? While "Modern Gardens and the Landscape" is not definitive, it does go some way towards assessing its subject.

Extraordinarily, though the gardens discussed in this book are all relatively recent, there are those already threatened and in danger of disappearing. Most notable among these are Lois Barragan's landscapes at Las Arboledas which are apparently "neglected, vandalized and doomed to follow El Pedregal" which has itself been "overpowered . . . by the clamour of surrounding houses, waterworks and planting".

Such losses are totally regrettable especially since among the gardens photographed Barragan's work stands out with a quality and originality marking its greatness, and separating it from many of the illustrated works.

Gardens from the 'fifties and 'sixties have dated quickly. Strangely this book has also dated. In paper, type, design and lay-out, it is very much a part of the period it illuminates.

This is not to devalue it; it remains a significant and attractive survey of gardens of the mid-twentieth century. These are not flower gardens, but the masterworks of architects and landscape architects. They have established the foundations for the style of urban art now coming to the forefront in cities through the world. For this alone the book is an important review.



The Royal Botanic Gardens Melbourne

by Joan Law-Smith; published by the Maud Gibson Trust and available from the National Herbarium, the kiosk in the Gardens, and the Plant Craft Cottage; \$5.00.

reviewed by Tim North

All too seldom are we rewarded by a book by Joan Law-Smith; for she possesses that rare combination — the sensitivity of the artist, the ability to express that directly and simply in words, and a wide knowledge of plants. No one else in this country can write about gardens and plants with such delightful imagery — and at the same time accuracy — so it is fitting that she should write an up-to-date guide to what are, undeniably, Australia's finest Botanic Gardens.

It is, as one might expect, a beautifully produced book, designed by Alison Forbes and with photographs by Elaine Herbert and others. It contains 84 pages of botanical and historical information, including 11 quite exceptional full-page colour photographs.

No boring, nor breathless tramp through the gardens is this, rather a gentle meander, with time to pause here and there quietly to reflect upon the special qualities of a particular tree, or its history or some strange fact about it. There is a chapter, too, on the birds of the gardens and one on the architectural features, as well as a nicely balanced article on the thorny problem of botanical names.

Even for those who seldom, or never have a chance to visit the Royal Botanic Gardens, Melbourne, this is a book which can be read with interest and pleasure.

The Australian and New Zealand Gardener's Survival Manual

by Ann Bonar; published by Doubleday Australia, Sydney and Auckland; recommended retail price \$19.95.

reviewed by Tim North

The sub-title of this book is "How to solve your gardening problems"; it is, so the publishers tell us, "the quick, authoritative answer to all your day-to-day questions". So it is what may be described as a fairly basic gardening book, covering such subjects as assessing one's soil, watering, weeding, pruning, health and hygiene, and so on; as such it must be judged against a considerable number of very similar works.

This book was originally published in England, and it would seem that it has been adapted, in part re-written, for Australian and New Zealand conditions. Although this transition has, in general, been made with due regard to the obvious differences in climate, season and choice of plants, there are occasional statements that betray the book's origin; for example; "The pelargonium, the greenhouse geranium, is not nearly as easy to grow as other geraniums" will surprise many gardeners here.

The A-Z list of plants, which occupies more than half of the book, is likewise very basic — and in some respects rather unbalanced. It includes, for example, only eight genera native to either Australia or New Zealand, and some others that are of limited use in most Australian gardens, like Crocus and Tulip. There are some unfortunate errors, too; under the description of *Hymenosporum flavum*, our Native Frangipani, appears a picture of *Plumeria acutifolia* and the plant illustrated on the centre of pages 134-135 is not *Jasminum polyanthum*. Somewhat curiously, the only two roses illustrated are *R. rugosa* and *R. rubrifolia*. Each plant description is accompanied by diagrammatic information on soil type, position, propagation, planting, protection, feeding and watering. Some of this information, however, is questionable; for example under *Lavendula* "watering may be necessary during droughts", and under *Rhododendron* "watering is only necessary in severe droughts".

Although the novice gardener will find a great deal of useful and practical information in this book, it does, in my view, have its limitations.

A Camera in the Garden

by Heather Angel; published by Quiller Press and available from the bookshop at the R.H.S. Gardens at Wisley, about \$15.00.

reviewed by Trevor Nottle

Widely acclaimed as a wildlife photographer, Heather Angel has written of her work in a handful of books on photographic skills for naturalists, as well as producing illustrations for thirty-five of her own "picture" books on animals, birds and insects. This year she is President of the Royal Photographic Society and has a travelling exhibition of garden photographs by arrangement with Kodak as part of the first International Garden Festival in Britain.

The book has 160 pages and 80 superb colour photographs, and contains much expert information for owners of all kinds of cameras, from the simplest "Instamatic" to the most complex

models. What is especially attractive for gardeners is that the information is presented in a clear, concise written form rather than a mass of confusing tables and graphs. This makes the book "user friendly" for gardeners and garden lovers. Apart from the easily accessible technical information the book guides gardener photographers towards more imaginative photography through chapters such as "Reflections and Ripples", "Focus on Foliage", "Art and Architecture", and "Setting the Scene".

There are also useful guides to the purchase of cameras and other equipment, and a very succinct resume of the garden features of 170 British and Irish gardens.



Some new publications

World-famous **Curtis' Botanical Magazine** has been incorporated into a new quarterly publication, **The Kew Magazine**. Edited by the staff of the Royal Botanic Gardens at Kew this new journal includes plant portraits on such diverse species as *Paphiopedilum sanderianum*, *Aecmea abbreviata*, *Pilea peperomioides* and *Rhododendron rarilepidotum*. The first issue includes such articles as "The Conservation of Rare and Endangered Bulbs" and "Alpine Ecology in Barun Khola, Nepal". **Curtis' Botanical Magazine**, founded in 1787, was famous for the excellent quality of its colour plates, as well as for its authoritative text. The editors of **The Kew Magazine** plan to maintain these high standards. Vol 1, Part 1, contains six beautiful colour plates and numerous drawings. To order an annual subscription send \$60 to Marston Book Services Ltd, 108 Cowley Road, Oxford, England.

The first of a series of publications to be produced by the Centre for the Conservation of Historic Parks and Gardens, which has been established under the auspices of the Institute of Advanced Architectural Studies at the University of York, England, has now appeared. They are: **Conservation Reading List**, by J. Gallagher and P. Goodchild, which brings together sources of information, horticultural, historical and fiscal, on conservation of parks and gardens in Britain; and **Documenting a Garden's History**, by J. Gallagher, a practical guide on uncovering the history from documentary sources.

An important new reference tool for those interested in the landscape industry will be introduced in 1985. Called **Landsearch** it will be the first subject reference to the periodical literature of landscape architecture, and will provide references to recently published articles from approximately 100 journals in the fields of landscape planning, design, construction, history and related disciplines. Coverage will be worldwide and will include the journals of major commercial publishers as well as those of professional institutes. Major journal articles, news items and book reviews will be included. For each article full bibliographic descriptions will be provided in one "main entry" sequence; this sequence will be arranged alphabetically by title and will include details of plans, diagrams, photographs, other graphics, language and subject headings. Separate author and subject indexes will provide brief entries for ease of use, and refer users back to the main sequence for fuller details. **Landsearch** will be produced quarterly, with annual cumulations. The first issue will be available in April 1985. Details of subscription price, and a special pre-publication discount offer, can be obtained from: Datascapes Information Pty Ltd, GPO Box 1870, ACT 2601.

My Favourite Gardening Book

In this, the last of the present series, Trevor Nottle describes his favourite book.

Choosing one book from the shelves that face me across my desk is a very difficult task, as all of my books must be "workers". Either as useful and authoritative references or as treasures of ideas they have to earn their keep on my crowded shelves. The books most frequently used occupy the middle two shelves of the central section, above the big reference books and gardening dictionaries. Altogether there are about a hundred books, many of which would be immediately recognized by any keen plantsman.

One of my favourites is "Down to Earth", by Anne Scott-James (remember the BBC's "My Word" programme?) I picked it up years ago at an Angus and Robertson side-walk sale in Mosman, and it has been a good companion ever since. It is a useful practical reference and Miss Scott-James freely acknowledges her authorities and frequently describes her visits to their gardens with charming anecdotes scattered among the chapters. As a treasury of ideas the book really comes into its own for like most of us Miss Scott-James made her own garden "with too little time, money and professional help, full of imperfections, but a continual source of pleasure". In the chapters which deal with the practical aspects of gardening, a section of the book entitled "On the Ground", there is no shying away from the defects of some conventionally desirable things. Hear her on one of my pets: "I have four yellow-flowered Tree Paeonies of enormous size, *P. lutea ludlowii*, but as far as I'm concerned, it's four too many, for their season is brief and their greed is great, while their appearance in autumn and winter is quite disgusting". There is contrary-wise praise for some fairly uncommon vegetables used as flowers; "I met (this) ornamental seakale rather late in life, but have become a latter day addict; it looks like a giant gypsophila, growing some six feet high, with hundreds of small starry white flowers growing in panicles on branching stalks. It is one of the largest and most splendid of all herbaceous plants, and I can't think why I never encountered it sooner". And there are consolations for difficult situations; "Galtonia candicans; perhaps I wouldn't be so attached to this plant if I could grow better lilies, but for those on alkaline soil, galtonia makes a splendid lily substitute; I was furious when the old name, *Hyacinthus candicans*, went out of use, for it was truly more descriptive of the plant".

We both agree as gardeners (and authors) on the value of garden visiting, or as Miss Scott-James puts it "Eye Witness", by which so much can be learned, so many contacts made and hard to get plants obtained. Even more important than garden visiting is talking to other gardeners; "When two gardeners get together the wish to communicate is strong — and when I talk to gardeners I don't just chat. I get out my notebook and grill them. I pinion them in the garden in mid-January asking them about their winter foliage when they would rather be indoors by the fire; and I prod them into the summer sun to identify their roses when a long cool drink in the shade is more in their minds." How re-assuring to find that in these determined habits we readers are not alone and how refreshing to see the idea set down with some wit.

Above all, I feel Anne Scott-James has herself a strong desire to communicate with her readers and this comes through time and time again. There are many "I" statements wherein the author brings her book down to the level of a two-way discussion between herself and the reader. It is a direct sharing of experi-

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ence, not written in the usual third person directive so loved by professional editors and readers; for me and I know for many others, this is the style which is engaging, instructive and enjoyable. Despite the considerable differences in climate which separate Miss Scott-James from her Australian readers there is much which we share; like her, most of us must do without a water garden, most of us will be decidedly skimpy on woodland and rhododendron gardens; we too must make do with synthetic paving and cement instead of stone. And who can even claim to share her luxurious "gardener for half a day a week" however much we might wish for one fulltime? Every working amateur who has ever been asked to open their garden would recognize her reluctance and apprehension over this daunting poser. It is this feeling of experiences shared which makes the book so popular with me. The author exposes her own prejudices, discoveries, delights and set-backs, and invites reflection on my own particular lot.

I have never been to England, nor am I likely ever to meet Anne Scott-James, but I know that if this unlikely event ever came about we should almost certainly get on, for she, like me, is a real gardener with weeds, failures, dirty finger nails and chapped hands, enjoying the making and working. As she says in her Foreword: ". . . for I really do understand the practical problems. This is the way most people garden, always pushed hard for time and cash, the reality never quite catching up with the dreams. Most of us are quite content with the lack of perfection, for there is more pleasure in making a garden than in contemplating a paradise." And that sums up for me the essential attraction of the book.

Letters

Dear Mr North,

Thank you for the December issue of the Australian Garden Journal with the excellent article by you on The Tradescant Trust.

This is not only completely accurate, but so comprehensive, containing all necessary information. On behalf of the Trust I thank you most warmly.

I should also like to congratulate you on the magazine as a whole. It is an excellent production, full of interest.

I was delighted to read of the June 1985 Tour of American Gardens and hope contact can be made at that time with the Tradescant Gardeners of America. That body is coming to England in May for a tour and will be here for the Chelsea Flower Show. Is there any chance that you will be in this country at that time?

In view of any forthcoming publicity about The Tradescant Trust which may appear, following your article and the arousal of interest, there is one point which I should like to mention. In her column "My Favourite Gardening Book" Diana Pockley speaks of Rosemary Verey's and Alvilde Lees-Milne's admirable "The Englishwoman's Garden".

The opening article in that book (alphabetically arranged) is by Mea Allen. The claims made in the article regarding the connection of her garden with the Tradescants have no foundation in fact, as has been proved after meticulous research. The Great Rose Daffodil supposedly growing in that garden has proved to be Van Sion.

When we founded the Trust, we took Mea Allen's book to be accurate (The Tradescants; published 1964, now out of print). To our embarrassment, it was not long before leading figures in the botanical world advised us that if we wished to be taken seriously over the founding of the Museum of Garden History we should regard Mea Allen's book(s) "with reserve", because of their inaccuracy and, in the case of The Tradescants, extravagant claims.

The article in "The Englishwoman's Garden" was written after the formation of the Trust, which disassociates itself from any connection with the Suffolk garden.

Lady Salisbury, as President of the Trust, is of course aware of the difficult position into which we have been put.

As editor of your Journal, I felt you should be informed.

With greetings and every good wish for the New Year,

Yours sincerely,

Rosemary Nicholson,

Chairman, The Tradescant Trust, London, England.

Dear Tim,

In answer to your query regarding the David Austin roses, I reserved three Wife of Bath from Mr Boaden but someone has cast doubt in his mind as to whether the rose he has labelled by that name is correct; he is getting a photograph verified in England at present.

I obtained five roses from him last winter and they are by far the healthiest roses I have ever had — they have been having a succession of bloom all summer. One in particular I like very much is The Prioress. The only criticism I have of the other roses is that when they are full-blown they are apt to be a little large. However, I am only commenting on those I have.

Sincerely,

Joan Law-Smith, Bolobek, Macedon, Vic.

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Dear Tim,

A challenging theory has come my way which if proved and acted on could transform our country and our climate. I am seeking informed comment on it through the Journal since it involves our history.

The view is this: (1) that Eucalypts are weeds which have overrun the Australian landscape when other species were burnt or chopped out by natives, who used fire as an aid to writing, and by European settlers who shipped an enormous quantity out for timber and for agricultural clearing purposes. Many disliked the landscape so much they took an almost vicious attitude to tree-destruction: (2) Eucalypts dry the soil severely — indeed some varieties are used for draining swamps; most gardeners are aware of the effect of Eucalypts on the soil, especially gardeners on limited water where gardening with gums is heartbreaking: (3) Eucalypts with their tough sparse leaves, which adapt easily to the climate they have created, are not conducive to attracting moisture, unless other species are present.

The idea is that if we cease planting Eucalypts and re-forest with other species Australia's climate would modify and the landscape could return to a greater percentage of rainforest cover.

For Australians gums are as revered as koalas, kangaroos and emus, so this is not likely to be a popular theory. However it struck me instinctively as truth. What other country of the world has such an untidy forest, so dominated by one genus? We cannot even market Eucalyptus products successfully, thanks to insect problems (South Africa is a big producer of oil, for instance) which suggests an artificial imbalance. Our most treasured and beautiful areas are rainforests and these feature a wide variety of tree species thanks to their inaccessibility.

I have no authority on which to found or launch such a theory. Has research been done on the kind of tree cover Australia enjoyed pre-settlement by Europeans, and the current strain of aborigines? I understand there was a different people here much earlier, as NASA research has proved, making land right claims somewhat shaky.

Any response to this theory would be gratefully received — though emotional gum nuts need not apply (sorry!).

With best wishes,

Frances Kelly, North Adelaide, SA.

Cottage Garden Notes

by Mary Davis

The Green and White Garden

Ever since Vita Sackville West planted the white garden at Sissinghurst gardeners all over the world have been emulating her example with varying degrees of success, depending on whether they are working in sun or shade.

In USA, in 1975 on a frosty January morning at Goldsboro, North Carolina, a full coach of Australian gardeners (Camellia nuts to be more precise) were treated to breakfast and an inspection of a four acre garden, developed over a forty year span, almost all of it under the protection of Loblolly Pines. The creator of this lovely garden, beautiful even in mid-winter, was a lady called Betty Kemp, who remarked that her special pleasure was to walk in her garden on a moonlight night when the native white dogwoods were in bloom.

White lifts and lightens a shady garden, of this there is no doubt, and in areas of shade cast by large spreading deciduous trees such as our English oak, *Quercus robur*, the planting of white flowering plants is most effective. The shade also offers protection for tender variegated foliage which could easily suffer burn damage in a full sun position.

The oak has a canopy diameter approaching nine metres, and almost touches a macadamia nut mentioned in the February issue, so it has been possible to devote a fairly large area to the green and white garden, which has a spine planting of *Gardenia* "Professor Pucci" and *Azalea* "Morti", both grown for their perfume. On the south side of the Azaleas in the densest shade is a group of three *Acanthus mollis* "Variegata", the Oyster Plant, whose large deeply serrated leaves command attention. Their decorative shape became the motif for the Corinthian columns of ancient Greece. All *Acanthus* take a rest period in January after flowering in December, but they are back in business again by March. To compensate for this, the bold variegated foliage of Hostas has been employed together with white Astilbes, and when the Hostas die down for winter, white Hellebores carry the interest.

A most useful all-year-round performer under the oak is the Green Goddess lily, *Zantedeschia* spp, with very attractive white and green spathe "flowers". The Green Goddess has three pluses in that it does not seem to mind the root opposition, it blooms almost perpetually, and lasts for three to four weeks as a cut flower.

Severe root opposition can be a very vexing problem, not only when trying to dig holes but in causing the decline of wanted plants which have to fight for needed moisture and nutrients. Both must be supplied more frequently than in an open situation, and foliar feeding is often the only way to ensure success.

As the light values increase further out from the trunk, some shrubs, perennials and groundcovers have been used in combination, and include *Luculia grandiflora*, *Camellia japonica* "Margarete Hertrich", a formal double, *Hydrangea quercifolia*, white Nicotianas, double white Pyrethrum, *Deutzia* "Nikko", a dwarf species, *Gardenia radicans*, *Arenaria montana*, a pleasing mat forming groundcover, and double white Parma violets.

Long-spurred McKana hybrid Columbines in white and cream flower in October and November, and are scattered among the above mentioned shrubs, and in autumn single and double white wind Anemones, *A. x hupehensis*, add their special beauty. Two of the most charming green and white flowering gems come from tubers and bulbs. I refer to *Polygonatum multiflorum*, Solomon's Seal, and *Leucojum vernum*, often called Snowdrops but which should be called Snowflakes. The white bells touched with green are delightful both in the garden or in decorative arrangements.

In autumn the acorns and fallen leaves need removing frequently, the latter makes good compost but the former if left to germinate quickly send down a long tap root making removal less easy; however deciduous trees do provide needed shade for bulbs such as narcissus after flowering is finished. If I were a purist these should all be white varieties, but I am not, and really love deep yellow daffodils as much as, say, Jean Hood with its orange cup set against a white perianth. These are on the north side of the bed in company with paper-white Jonquils and white Freesias, but when the bulbs are dormant interest focuses on groups of *Liriope muscari* with spikes of jacaranda blue flowers similar to grape hyacinths, and red-berried Ardisias used in combination with *Hedera helix* "Glacier Diamond", a small leafed ivy whose foliage has such appealing freshness.

The soil level at the base of the oak has not been altered but below it the level for a new lawn has been lowered. This splendid tree is now enhanced by a low stone wall separating the lawn and the garden bed which it now retains. As it curves to the south side of the oak the contour flow allows for a wall height of some 60 cm, and provides an exciting challenge for the effective display of spillover plant treasures. More on the Edna Walling style walls next issue.

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A blue indoor plant

A rare blue-flowered plant for growing indoors is reported in the journal of the Indoor Gardening Society of America. It is *Evolvulus glomeratus*, and its flowers are described as being of a far richer blue than, for example, *Exacum*. The plant reaches a height of 20 cm with a spread of about 30 cm in a 10 cm pot. Leaves are oval pointed, about 1 cm long, soft textured and finely felted so that they appear grey. The five-lobed flowers, up to 2.5 cm across, are salver shaped and a vivid blue with white stigma and stamens. They bud in the axils of the leaves and open only for one day. However, the plant takes kindly to trimming and puts out a number of branches very quickly so that the flower production is large. It grows well in a bright window or under lights. It should never be allowed to dry out.

Virus prevention

Researchers in India have found that leaf extracts of eight species of *Clerodendron* contain substances which when rubbed or sprayed onto leaves of plants greatly reduce or completely prevent infection by several viruses. The degree of inhibition was greater when the substances were applied prior to inoculation with a virus as compared to application after inoculation. It was also found that the substances moved systematically through the plants.

Preventing bird damage

Spraying cherries with methiocarb, a non-systemic insecticide and acaricide, greatly reduces damage by birds. In Michigan, USA, five times more fruit was damaged on untreated than on treated plants. In New Zealand unsprayed cherry trees lost 80% of their fruit, whereas sprayed trees lost only 10%. Washing the fruit in water reduced residual methiocarb by 50% and brought it to acceptable levels, while use of a diluted detergent instead of pure water reduced the methiocarb by 65%.

Indoor pollution

The National Research Council of the U.S. has shown that in poorly ventilated rooms of well insulated houses indoor pollutants such as formaldehyde may be a health hazard. The use of certain types of resins and solvents in building and decorating materials, as well as cooking with gas, are some common sources of indoor air pollution. Research scientists at NASA experimented with indoor plants that grow under reduced light intensities and produce abundant foliage. These include *Scindapsus aureus* and *Syngonium podophyllum*, which reduced the concentration of formaldehyde in deliberately polluted air by two-thirds or more over a period of 24 hours. Soil mix was also found to be important in reducing concentrations of formaldehyde; this apparently is due to the microbial population in the soil mix that metabolizes pollutants. Based on this research a single plant in a one-gallon container can remove one sixtieth of the formaldehyde produced in a 1800 square feet home with an eight foot ceiling; 60 to 70 plants would therefore be needed to purify the air continuously and completely. Research is continuing using other plants.

Acid rain

According to Dr George Ware, dendrologist at the Morton Arboretum in USA acid rain is adding to the already great stresses troubling trees along streets and in parking lots. The soil around these trees is becoming increasingly alkaline because the acid rain is dissolving the concrete and washing lime into the soil. In Chicago rainfall having a pH 5.1 resulted in run-off with pH 7.5 from a parking lot. In this city, where rain several decades ago was recorded at pH 6 to 6.5 it now averages pH 5. The increased alkalinity prevents proper absorption of trace elements, such as iron and manganese. The most prominent symptoms are reduced growth, poor colour and mottling of the leaves, and failure of parts of the trees to produce leaves. Dr Ware advises mulching all trees and applying sulphate of ammonia several times a year.

Designing windbreaks

The University of Maryland has been conducting research into the design and planting of windbreaks. This has shown that a windbreak should deflect 60% of the wind and allow 40% to pass through; this reduces turbulence on the protected side. In cross-section the shape of a windbreak is ideally a rectangle; each row of plants — four or five rows of deciduous plants or two to three rows of evergreens — should be of a slightly different height so as to create an irregular top which will break up the wind more effectively. The ideal length for a windbreak is 11.5 times its maximum height.

A new *Solanum*

The genus *Solanum* contains at least 1,200 species, many of which are still being "discovered" as useful garden and food plants. One particularly desirable species, according to the California Rare Fruit Growers, is *Solanum maricatum* from Peru, a perennial herb or sub-shrub growing up to one metre in height, with bright blue flowers and egg-shaped fruits, yellow with purple markings. The fruits average about a quarter of a kilo in weight, are fragrant and have a flavour described as something like that of a melon. Some gardeners in southern California are reported as having some success in growing this fruit, and it is also being grown in New Zealand.

The English hedgerow

The English hedgerow has for centuries been an honoured tradition of country life. Intended primarily to enclose livestock it also supplies food and shelter for wildlife, and acts as a wind-break. Many hedgerows, however, have been removed in the past two decades. Realizing their value a Member of Parliament has introduced a bill to make it illegal to cut down any hedgerow bordering a farm, parish, highway, lane or bridle path. Curiously, in preparing this bill it was discovered that there was already a law, dating back nearly 150 years, which required that hedgerows enclosing many types of land must be "perpetually maintained". This has caused a rather thorny problem, since more than two and a half billion pounds in grants has been given to farmers over the past twenty years to improve the efficiency of their farms, and some of these funds have been used to remove hedgerows in order to enlarge the productive area of fields. But since no grant funds can be used for an illegal purpose the British Ministry of Agriculture now say that farmers could conceivably be compelled to return any grant funds used for removing hedgerows.

Dwarf citrus trees

Dwarf citrus trees, growing no higher than one and a half to one and three-quarters of a metre, are being produced in California, where the new "Flying Dragon" trifoliate orange is being used as a dwarfing rootstock.

garden market place

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The Tradescant Trust

Across Lambeth Bridge, at the gates of Lambeth Palace, London SE1, is the former church of St. Mary-at-Lambeth. Saved from demolition by The Tradescant Trust in 1977, an extensive schedule of repair and rebuilding is taking place.

In the churchyard is the tomb of John Tradescant, gardener to the first Earl of Salisbury, the Duke of Buckingham and Charles I, his son, John, succeeding him as Royal Gardener. Both Tradescants introduced from their wide travels abroad many new trees, shrubs and herbaceous and climbing plants. Their collection of curiosities formed the basis of the Ashmolean Museum, Oxford, Britain's first public museum. The tomb of Admiral Bligh of the Bounty is adjacent to that of the Tradescants.

The Tradescant Trust, a registered charity, has been set up with two aims:

1. To convert the church into a Museum of Garden History, the first in the world, and to provide an active centre for interests relating to gardens, gardening and conservation, where open meetings, demonstrations, lectures and exhibitions will be held.

2. To create in the churchyard the Tradescant Garden, planted with the species shrubs and flowers they introduced, plants which were grown in their Lambeth garden and other plants of the period.

In 1978 an international appeal was launched for funds to restore and convert the church to its new use and to establish the garden. Grants have been made to The Tradescant Trust by the Department of the Environment, the Borough of Lambeth, the Greater London Council and The Pilgrim Trust. It is estimated that one million pounds is needed to complete this project.

To keep the public informed of progress and to widen support, the Friends of the Tradescant Trust was formed in 1977. **The Australian Garden Journal** is now acting as The Friends' agent in Australia, and will accept subscriptions and donations, as well as distributing regular newsletters and other publicity material.

The minimum annual subscription for residents of Australia is \$4.00, and this may be sent to:

The Australian Garden Journal, PO Box 588 Bowral, NSW 2576.

All subscriptions will be promptly acknowledged with a membership card.



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New from Thompson and Morgan

Thompson and Morgan are introducing this autumn a new dwarf Stock called, appropriately enough, "Pygmy". "Pygmy" grows no higher than 12 to 15 cm, inclusive of the flower spike, but its great virtue is that single-flowered plants can be discarded at an early stage, because the foliage is different — the fully double-flowered seedlings have distinctive wavy edged, pointed leaves.

Also new from Thompson and Morgan is a dwarf Oriental Poppy, "Allegro", with large (15 cm) flowers of bright scarlet on short stems, and a pansy with a natural spreading, ground-covering habit; this is "Redwing", which has an unusual combination of reddish-chocolate upper petals and bright yellow lower ones.

Three new vegetables are the Gilfeather Turnip, an "heirloom" vegetable that was found in a quiet corner of Vermont, USA, where it has been growing for more than fifty years; Onion "Spartan Sleeper" whose mature bulbs go into complete dormancy, making it the best onion yet for storing; and Spinach "Popeye's Choice", a F1 hybrid which is quick-maturing and bolt-resistant.

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